

# **War and Remembrance Study Guide**

## **War and Remembrance by Herman Wouk**

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# Plot Summary

Victor "Pug" Henry prepares to take over command of the U.S.S. Northampton. He reads over a letter from his wife, Rhoda. They have apparently had marital problems but Rhoda now says she wants to make things right. She also asks Pug to see if he can find out anything about Natalie, their daughter-in-law, who has not been heard from in several days. Natalie is Jewish and Rhoda is concerned for her and her baby son, Louis. Pug shares lunch one last time with his other son, Warren, his wife Janice and their baby, Little Victor, at their home near Pearl Harbor before he returns to his ship.

The story is the sweeping saga of the Henry family set against the backdrop of World War II. The book is historically accurate with only a few literary exceptions.

Pug and Rhoda have been separated by war for some time. During that time, Rhoda has begun seeing another man. That is why she asks for a divorce but later feels guilty and recalls the request. She will decide she should become a good wife to Pug and end the affair only to find herself attracted to another man whom she eventually marries. Pug meanwhile has become interested in an Englishwoman, Pamela Tudsbury, who is following around her father, Alastair "Talky" Tudsbury, a famous journalist. She and Pug never quite manage to spend much time together and even during that time they are restrained, though they admit they have fallen in love. When Rhoda finally does say she definitely wants the divorce, Pug proposes to Pam who has since become engaged and turns him down. She changes her mind, accepts his proposal and they finally marry, settling in Washington.

Meanwhile, Pug is captain of a ship, the Northampton. He sails out of Honolulu where his son, Warren, lives with his wife, Janice, and their son, Vic. Warren is a pilot and he and Pug go into battle together at Midway against the Japanese. It is there that Warren's plane goes down while Pug has not fired even a single shot. The death of Warren is what briefly prompts Pug and Rhoda to get back together, but it does not last.

Pug's younger son, Byron, is manning a submarine. He serves under his friend, Lady Aster, for some time until Aster is killed in combat. Byron takes over command and is given his own command shortly after. He is spending time in Honolulu with Janice, his brother's widow, and admits that they have fallen in love but nothing can come of it because he is still hopeful that his wife, a Jew being held in Germany, is alive with their son. His wife, Natalie, is actually being held with her uncle, Aaron Jastrow. It is Aaron who kept Natalie in Europe as the war started because Aaron simply did not believe the situation was as bad as it turned out to be. Natalie and Aaron, carrying Louis along, are shuffled from one spot to another as they try to escape back to America. By the time they learn the truth, it is too late and they are being held in a prison camp. Aaron's cousin, Berel, has escaped Auschwitz and it is Berel who manages to get Louis out of the camp by having a doctor fake his death certificate and placing him with a family in Prague. Aaron is soon killed in the gas chambers but Natalie is among the last moved into Auschwitz and survives, though barely. Byron spends days traveling the countryside before he finds Louis, traumatized but alive.



Pug's daughter, Madeline, goes through a series of ups and downs, mainly on account of her boss, Hugh Cleveland. Hugh is married and continues to tell Madeline that he will divorce his wife but never does. She finally cuts her ties with him and marries a naval officer who is a scientist working on the production of the super weapon—the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

Through it all, Pug remains a frequent visitor to the White House and is taken into the confidence of President Roosevelt. He gives up sea commands at the President's request and is appointed Naval Aide under Eisenhower's presidency.



# Chapters 1 through 10

## Chapters 1 through 10 Summary

### Chapter One

Victor "Pug" Henry prepares to take over command of the U.S.S. Northhampton. He reads over a letter from his wife, Rhoda. They have apparently had marital problems but Rhoda now says she wants to make things right. She also asks Pug to see if he can find out anything about Natalie, their daughter-in-law, who has not been heard from in several days. Natalie is Jewish and Rhoda is concerned for her and her baby son, Louis. Pug shares lunch one last time with his other son, Warren, his wife Janice and their baby, Little Victor, at their home near Pearl Harbor before he returns to his ship.

Natalie Henry is on a ship called the Redeemer in Naples harbor. Their plans say the ship is headed to Turkey but they are actually going to Palestine in an effort to escape Jewish persecution. They are refused permission to leave the port for days. They attempt to bribe their way out but are turned back. They are then visited by a military man who studied under Natalie's uncle, Aaron Jastrow. He tells them he will provide passes and urges them to get off the ship. Jastrow says he will do whatever Natalie decides. As soon as he imparts this information, the ship is cleared to leave.

Berel Jastrow is on an enforced march from a prison camp where he has seen prisoners eating the dead in a horrific effort to survive. He believes nothing can be worse and wonders at the name of the camp they're approaching—Auschwitz.

Natalie is trying to decide what to do—remain on the boat or get off with her uncle—when Louis becomes gravely ill. This change of affairs makes the decision for her and she departs with Dr. Werner Beck—a man who studied under Aaron and who promises safety. Natalie says she will always wonder what happened to those on the Redeemer.

Byron is working with a recovery crew but has requested a transfer to the Atlantic in the hopes of seeing his son for the first time. He is ordered on a final trip with the Devilfish—a submarine—and promised that he will then be transferred to a location on the Atlantic.

Pamela Tudsbury is ill when Phillip Rule calls her. She almost turns down his invitation for dinner at the Savoy, but agrees to go because the third person joining them—Leslie Slote—has information about Pug. Both Phillip and Leslie attempt to lure Pam away but she refuses both. Pam meets Phillip again in Singapore. Her father, "Talky," invites Pam and her friends to join him at a club where he is having drinks with the governor. Pam accepts but when they arrive, she discovers that her new friend—Elsa McMahon—is excluded because of her race.

With the sinking of two major ships off the coast at Singapore, Talky prepares a broadcast that speaks to the lack of air power. The military censors it telling him that



they cannot offer information about the lack of air support. Talky believes his broadcast will bring the needed support but the military refuses to let him use the information—saying it will put military intelligence in the hands of the enemy. Talky tries to appeal the ruling but is unable to reach the governor. He wants to go on the air with the story and then deal with the consequences. Jeff McMahan refuses.

Byron Henry stands watch above the U.S.S. Devilfish, a submarine, and believes the crew is on a mission that could easily be called a suicide mission. Captain Hoban orders the submarine to travel on the surface in order to make better time toward their destination though they are also in more danger. Then comes the order to "dive, dive, dive." Byron learns that one of the men sighted a low-flying plane—or that it might have been a seagull, but the captain determines that it is now full daylight and time for caution. The Devilfish comes into contact with Japanese ships and sends out four torpedoes, but all miss. Then they hear the distinctive "ping" of a depth charge as they are hit by return fire.

Dr. Palmer Kirby is on his way to meet Rhoda Henry. Palmer says he feels bad about the affair with Rho and that he proposed marriage, which she refused. Instead, they continue their sexual relationship. Palmer notes the confused talk about the war, saying that to most people, Santa Claus is more real than the Red Army's battle against "the Wehrmacht hordes." Palmer has actually been on a quest seeking the answer to the question of whether nuclear warheads and atom bombs can be manufactured. There is a lack of materials and workers and Palmer believes the Germans have too much of a head start.

Rhoda is waiting for Palmer at the train station. She has not told him that she asked for a divorce before Pearl Harbor but that she is now "vaguely crawling fishing." She acknowledges she now has both men willing to do whatever she wants.

Madeline—Rhoda's daughter—is visiting, effectively curtailing any romantic time for Rhoda and Palmer. Madeline's suitor, Simon Anderson, is treated much the same as Rhoda's—as a doormat. Madeline has apparently quit her job and her boss continues to call, though she refuses to talk to him. Simon and Madeline go to the movies and Rhoda lets Palmer read Pug's letter. She then asks to go to his apartment.

Talky and Pam are awakened by Phil with a military official who says Malaya has been invaded by the Japanese and is in danger of falling. The official points out that Talky has been broadcasting propaganda rather than the truth. When Talky writes a new story with the information he has just received, he attributes it to a retired general but the military censors the broadcast anyway. Talky heads off to Australia where he plans to broadcast the story, even if it means he is fired. Pam is concerned about being left, but Talky says the Japanese are hundreds of miles away and that she is safe. Phil has an injury on his hand—a centipede bite—that appears infected and he is headed to the hospital for medical treatment. His hand is lanced and he is assigned bed rest for a week. He and Pam move to the McMahan house as their guests.



The Devilfish is hit by the first depth charge and they take evasive action. They are in shallow water—less than one hundred feet—and the captain refuses to surface in order to recharge the batteries and to make better time. When the destroyer again picks up their trail, the captain has them settle on the bottom in an attempt to fool the enemy. As they settle, they hear the distinctive "clicks" of the enemy arming depth charges.

## Chapters 1 through 10 Analysis

Pam claims to be outraged because Else is excluded from the posh Tanglin Club. In truth, Pam—British by birth—believes totally in the superiority of her race through she does not vocalize it. She nevertheless says she is upset by racial discrimination from another. "Talky" is broadcasting from Singapore and he and Pam are in the city when the first Japanese air raids occur. Talky says these are nothing like the air raids on London because the planes are made of "rice paper" and the Japanese are no real threat. When news of the attack on Pearl Harbor comes, Talky believes it means the Allies have won the war, though it is not clear whether he thinks so because of the details of the counter attacks being launched or because the Americans are now being pulled into the war—ensuring Allied victory. While Pam is concerned about being attacked in Singapore, her only real worry is that she is stuck there now and that she will not be able to go on to Hawaii where she can see Pug.

The situation in Singapore is interesting. There have been no plans for black outs in the days before the attack Pam witnesses. There are no bomb shelters and the governor says that installing shelters in the "watery soil" would be costly and cause undue alarm. Talky is not prepared for the censorship he faces in Singapore and is outraged, though it does him little good.

It is Byron who suggests the submarine might reach their destination sooner by seeking a route to Lingayen through the reefs. They soon encounter enemy boats, firing four torpedoes that all miss. When the brief skirmish is over, Captain Hoban fails to call for evasive maneuvers until prompted. It is not clear whether he is not adequately prepared for battle and Byron, as well as the crew, will soon come to doubt his abilities.

Palmer seems to genuinely care for Rhoda but he is in an awkward position. This seems to be magnified by the fact that Pug is fighting in the war. Palmer says he feels bound to Rhoda and that he turns down other opportunities for sex even though she remains married to Pug. Rhoda likes the way Palmer makes her feel and notes that it does not hurt that he is well off. With those things in mind, Rhoda asks Pug for a divorce, then realizes that he is being reassigned and that the US is about to become involved in the war. She knows there is the possibility that Pug will advance in rank and that she may have given up just when he is about to make more money.

As Rhoda considers her situation, she suddenly sees herself as "unworthy of either man." Palmer believes the timing of Rhoda's announcement is an effort to "maneuver" him and he instinctively resists. Besides, Palmer has begun to see Rhoda as a real person with real flaws and may be reevaluating his desire to marry her. He does,





however, propose after they make love. She refuses, saying they should think on it, and she returns home to write a letter to Pug, vowing her love for him and that she will be waiting until he comes home.

Pam is upset by her father's broadcast, but at least partly because she is far away from him on Christmas Eve. Pam and Phillip Rule are talking and Phillip assures her that Singapore will fall. He also asks her to go to bed with him. Pam reminds him that he has a wife and he says he hopes she's "screwing the brains out of some nice deserving Russian fighting man on leave." As Pam leaves the cottage on her way back to the McMahon's home, she becomes disoriented in the darkness, sees the light from Phillip's cottage and takes that as a sign, returning to him.

Though the sub has only minor damage, the crew are disheartened. Morale immediately plummets as they race away from the destroyer that continues to hunt them. Byron himself has known the captain for some time, but now realizes the man is sobered by the sudden realization of his responsibility. The crew are receiving extra hazard pay and fully expect Hoban will turn and fight again. Instead, he makes a break for open water and attempts to get away when they are again discovered by the destroyer.



# Chapters 11 through 16

## Chapters 11 through 16 Summary

The commander of the German Prisoner of War camp where Berel Jastow is interred is trying to balance two sets of orders. His name is Hoess and he is being told to build, using Russian prisoners as laborers, but is also being told to execute enemies of the state—the prisoners who are supposed to be laborers for his building projects. The camp—Auschwitz—is executing thousands and the commander is concerned about efficiency. This camp is to be the "main disposal center," though the commander is careful not to even think about his orders because they are so secret. The commander notes there are to be mass executions and there is a problem finding an adequate method. Shooting is unacceptable because of the cost in ammunition and the effect on firing squads. Massive doses of insecticides seem to be the only answer. He also notes there is still a question of disposing of the bodies.

Berel Jastow, living in the prison camp under the name Yuri Gorachov, works from before sunup until after sundown in deplorable conditions until he recognizes a man—Sammy Mutterperl—who seems to be some sort of foreman. That evening, Berel is moved to a different barracks where he sees Mutterperl, and Berel notes that for the first time, he believes God might allow him to live.

The Devilfish is again bombarded, this time with numerous charges. They manage to escape in the debris churned up from the ocean floor by the depth charges being dropped. During one of the hits, several of the crew are injured including the captain. He loses consciousness for a period of time though Byron will later learn he was only pretending because he was afraid to continue with his command. The captain remains in his quarters with Lady Aster—a senior member of the crew—taking over. When Lady announces they have sighted another ship and that he plans to attack, the crew at once comes alive. That attack is successful and they bring down the ship—a Japanese tanker—with two torpedoes. Though Hoban returns to the bridge during the attack, he leaves the ship under Lady Aster's command.

Leslie Slote is at a function in Bern when he meets Selma Ascher—a woman who looks remarkably like Natalie Henry and who says she heard Slote was moved from Moscow because he was overly sympathetic toward the Jews. Slote denies that but under questioning, tells about Natalie, that she became trapped in Siena with her Uncle, Aaron Jastow, after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Leslie says he is working to have her released. Though Selma rejects Leslie's request to see her again, he is soon invited to dinner at the Ascher home.

The talk around the dinner table turns to war and continues after the men retire to Mr. Ascher's library. When Leslie leaves for home, he is accompanied by a Bavarian priest, Father Martin, who calls Hitler "the evil genius of my people," and "a scourge sent by God." Father Martin arranges for Leslie to be in a movie house several weeks later



when a man sits beside Leslie and covertly slips him a package of papers—copies of German documents. Before he can finish translating them, Selma calls and the two go to dinner. Selma admits that she is to marry a devout American Jew and Leslie begins to note her flaws in order to distance himself from her. Selma asks Leslie to dance and keeps looking at the clock. They leave at exactly eleven fifteen and Leslie returns to his translation. He is appalled by what he learns.

The next section of the book begins with two notes from Victor Henry, written in 1970 and 1973, explaining why he took the time to translate *World Empire Lost* and *World Holocaust*, both written by General Armin von Roon. Pug notes that the purpose is to remind those who do not read the original German text what people are capable of.

Roon's paper outlines the Wannsee Protocol—a plan for dealing with the Jewish population. There were suggestions that the Jews would simply emigrate when things became bad for them in their homeland, but they did not. A plan to move them all to Madagascar was briefly considered and dropped. There remained only the plan to incarcerate the Jews and work them mercilessly. While Roon does not deny that mass executions were held, he holds the military blameless. He attributes lack of adequate administrative oversight for the fact that half the Jews escaped and that only "by the highest estimation six million" Jews were executed. Roon writes that using the Jews would have served the German people more effectively than their deaths and calls the executions "a costly military blunder."

Aboard the *Northampton*, Victor Henry, accompanied by additional ships and plane, attacks Wotje Island. The ships are ordered on a "nuisance raid" and Pug notes that they are not much of a nuisance. There are problems with the spotters, problems launching the planes from ships and the attack does not go smoothly. Back at dock at Pearl Harbor, Pug gets letters from Rhoda, one sounding as though there had never been anything wrong; another informing him that Natalie is being held with journalists in Siena; one from Madeline with a news clipping about her current job; and one from an anonymous source, citing Rhoda's indiscretion with a man whose name begins with "K." Within days, he receives a second with more details of the affair.

Dining later with Admiral Spruance, Pug hears a broadcast by Talky. Pam's recorded voice is included as she talks of her forced evacuation.

## Chapters 11 through 16 Analysis

The commander oversees the gassing of some three hundred prisoners and notes the process seems effective. He says he is sickened by the spectacle of those who take long minutes to die, but that he is following orders. He goes home to his wife and children, showers and changes into a fresh uniform. He says there is something wrong with participating in Christmas festivities with his family "in the same uniform he wore before."



When the Devilfish is attacked again, it is obvious the captain is frightened and that fear quickly bleeds over to the crew, bringing morale to a dangerously low level. Byron notes that as soon as they discover they are about to attack another ship, the mood lifts and the "smell of despair" is pushed aside by the smell of frying chicken.

Selma is a Jew but says she and her family live in Switzerland. She says that when she was a child, most people thought Hitler was a joke but her father "wasn't amused" and the family moved. There is as yet no indication of why Selma told her parents she had met Leslie, but it seems his presence at the dinner party is part of a bigger plan as was his date with Selma. Leslie is not excited at first about the documents he is given, but upon closer examination is amazed by what he learns. The documents are the "Wannsee Photostats," describing the planned annihilation of the Jewish race.

The reader should keep in mind that the text from this document was transcribed by Victor Henry three decades after the end of the war. In the document, Roon notes that administrators had expected the Jews, forced to work hard on little food, would die off at a high rate. They were not prepared for the will to live and the fact that the human body can endure great hardships. He justifies the gas chambers as a more humane way to end the lives of those destined to die slowly from starvation. Points made by Roon include that Jews worked well and the labor force was hurt by the mass executions; many German soldiers who should have been fighting the war were rounding up Jews; soldiers were often waiting for transportation while trains were moving Jews to concentration camps; the killings demoralized the German soldiers.

The majority of the crew aboard the Northhampton know little about battle and they are not prepared. While Pug has not been overly authoritative during his brief command, he now denies any shore leave and puts the crew through their paces. While some grumble early on, Pug notes they are anxious to learn and are well aware that they are not efficient with their attack on Wotje. When they return from their maneuvers, Pug allows all but a skeleton crew to go ashore, earning him the crew's "promotion" from "the new skipper" to "the old man."

Pug notes that the first letter "saps him." He seems most upset that everyone knows of his marital problems. The second puts him in a black mood. Meanwhile, he is caught up by the voice of Pam, coming to him on the radio airwaves. Pug notes that it is a test of his will to keep his face relaxed as he listens to her recount the story of a man who gave her a grenade, telling her to use it if she is ever in danger of being raped by a Japanese.



# Chapters 17 through 20

## Chapters 17 through 20 Summary

Dr. Werner Beck is the guest of Natalie and her Uncle Aaron at his home in Italy. Dr. Beck and Natalie soon become involved in a heated discussion about the concentration camps. Dr. Beck does not actually deny their existence but says he believes most of the deaths are due to natural causes—disease and bad weather combined with inadequate care. Aaron tries to intervene but the two continue their discussion. Dr. Beck asks Natalie what she knows of American prisons. She objects, saying that prisons and the concentration camps are not the same. He says he is not suggesting that, but is pointing out that her lack of first-hand knowledge about the penal system is the same as his lack of information about the concentration camps. He says he only knows what others—including his brother—tell him.

Aaron says he believes Dr. Beck's assessment of the German's actions. He goes on to say a negotiated peace would be best and Natalie retorts there can be no negotiating with Hitler. Aaron predicts things will get worse for the Jews as the war goes on. He predicts the Soviets will win a drawn-out affair that says that "Soviet Europe" would be no better than a truce with Hitler.

Aaron says there is no need to leave Italy. He says his life is nearing its end and he would prefer to stay at his home where he is comfortable and able to concentrate on his writing. However, Aaron realizes Natalie will not leave without him and says he will make the trip to America.

Leslie Slote begins looking for a way to authenticate the document he has in his possession. He phones Selma Ascher but realizes her father is listening and pretends to be looking for the phone number of an American girl he met at the Ascher home. Selma goes to a pay phone and calls him back. Leslie tells her he actually needs to contact Father Martin and Selma promises to act as go-between. Selma later takes Leslie to the priest's house but the man tells Leslie he cannot possibly help with the authentication. Leslie says whoever risked their lives to obtain the paper he has did so in vain unless it can be authenticated. The priest says those who have read the document are denying the truth because they cannot face the fact that it might be true.

Treville Britton insists Leslie come to dinner and he arrives to find Selma already there. Britton predicts the turnaround is at hand and the Japanese will surely be defeated once they are in range of Singapore's guns. When Churchill's radio address airs, he announces that Singapore has fallen.

Selma and Leslie leave together and she says she has a message from Father Martin—"it is arranged" and Leslie is to expect a visitor the following Sunday. No one shows up and on Monday Leslie sees a small newspaper article—a truck driver who complained of faulty brakes killed Father Martin.



Aaron Jastrow writes in his diary on April 23, 1942, that he plans to leave Italy with Natalie and her baby but he has heard news the three may be held by authorities. He notes the Germans allege that three men held as spies by the Brazilians are actually journalists. The German government is planning to hold three American journalists in order to negotiate a release. Aaron feels he, Natalie and the baby may be the three held.

Byron Henry arrives at the home of his brother and sister-in-law in Hawaii. Janice says she has talked to her father, a senator, and Natalie is on her way to America aboard a Swedish ocean liner. Byron confesses he met a woman in Albany and hints at an intimate relationship but says he loves Natalie and cannot wait to see her and the baby. When Warren arrives home, he teases Janice about another jeep parked in the drive, saying that if there is a man in the closet he has thirty seconds to live. They make love and Warren reaffirms his love for Janice.

When Pug Henry arrives at port, he knows something big is happening but has no idea what. Admiral Spruance soon tells him there is about to be a major offensive against the Japanese who are attempting to seize Midway Island, a thousand miles from Hawaii. Pug is advised to enjoy some time with his sons but is told the information is confidential.

## Chapters 17 through 20 Analysis

Dr. Beck says it is possible not all Germans are "enthusiastic about the concentration camps." Dr. Beck, despite Natalie's suspicions, seems to genuinely like Aaron and later says it is thanks to Aaron that he received his doctorate degree—an accomplishment that shaped his career. However, Dr. Beck's heart does not seem to be in his defense of the German tactics or of the concentration camps.

When Selma asks if passing the information between Leslie and the priest is dangerous, Leslie assures her that it is not. It is not clear whether he believes Selma is so far removed from the situation that she really is not in danger or if he is trying to downplay the danger. Father Martin tells Leslie not to contact the Aschers again so Leslie is surprised when Selma brings him the message. Selma says she believes the priest thought it was safe because she and her family are leaving for America in just a few days.

Byron and Natalie apparently met and married in a whirlwind courtship, spent less than three days together on their honeymoon and have not been together since. Byron believes Natalie is aboard the ocean liner but is misinformed. Natalie, her son and uncle remain in Italy, detained by officials. There is the hint of sexual overtones between Byron and Janice, though nothing specific happens other than Janice having the feeling Byron is admiring her and she later giving him a kiss.

When Pug learns about the impending offensive, he knows he has trained for years for this very thing. He is more worried about his sons who are young and will both be in



more danger than Pug. He remembers the two as children and admits Warren is a flyer because he wants to outdo his father. Bryon is in submarines because Pug pushed him. When Byron says he has been offered a transfer out of the Pacific war area, Pug immediately says he should take it, saying the war is likely to drag on and Bryon will have other opportunities to fight.



## Part II, Midway, Chapters 21 through 23

### Part II, Midway, Chapters 21 through 23 Summary

There follows another excerpt of the book written by General Armin von Roon. The text was translated by Pug who notes Roon had a good grasp of the interaction of the battles in various parts of the world.

Roon writes that the Germans have picked up a minor ally in the Japanese and a major enemy in the Americans. He notes that Japan entered into a treaty with Russia meaning that Germany's strongest ally—Japan—was at peace with Germany's biggest foe. Roon says if Germany and Japan can quickly defeat the British, Japan can concentrate on America while Germany hits Russia—a plan Roon thinks has a chance. However, Hitler demanded a line of troops near Russia "hold or die," even personally overseeing the battlegrounds. The senseless deaths were demoralizing to the men, Roon says, calling the order a "hysterical military blunder."

Natalie interrupts Aaron's writing with a phone call from a man named Mose Sacerdote. While Aaron claims only to know of the man, he notes that Sacerdote is Italian for Cohen and agrees to talk to the man. Sacerdote asks Aaron to autograph a book for him and Aaron agrees. Sacerdote tells them the doctor who has treated Louis is his son-in-law, they financed the trip on the Izmar, and they are making plans to leave Italy.

While Natalie, Aaron and Louis are visiting, Aaron explains how the three came to remain in Italy while the others sailed on to a safer destination. Sacerdote says he believes the stories of massacres are true, that Italian Jews are to be rounded up in four months time, and Dr. Beck has arranged for Aaron, Natalie and Louis to be detained.

Pug and his family attend first a reception for Alistair Tudsbury and then a party to celebrate Janice and Warren's anniversary. Pug and Pamela are reunited though Pamela seems rather cool toward Pug. He tells her his wife has filed for divorce but her attitude toward him does not change. She does offer her sympathy and he says his sons do not know.

Byron finds out that Natalie, her uncle and her son are not on their way to America but are being detained. Though he is reassured that it is a minor problem soon to be resolved, he falls into a dark mood. He instructs his brother that he is to be taken to the airport that night and "poured" onto his flight, then proceeds to get drunk. As the evening draws to a close, hula dancers take the floor and invite guests to join in. At Janice's urging, Warren accepts. The women are watching Warren while all the men except Byron watch the girl. Byron has his eyes on his brother as tears run down his cheeks.





## Part II, Midway, Chapters 21 through 23 Analysis

Roon believes the Germans were in a position to win the war but blames Hitler's nervousness on several points and the fact that he never invited the Japanese for any type of joint planning sessions for their downfall. Without that cooperation, the Japanese decide what to do on their own without paying too much attention to the German plans. With the Japanese passing up an opportunity to cut British supply lines, the "great plan" of Hitler becomes nothing more than "table talk."

Roon says it is only after the famed Doolittle Raid—American bombers led by a man of that name dropped bombs on Tokyo in a complete surprise attack—that the Japanese respond by deciding they will move "eastward," to defend their own borders from more attacks. With Germany moving one way and Japan another, the forces are split rather than united.

Natalie has never trusted Dr. Beck but has not put her distrust into words. She seems immediately ready to accept the words of Sacerdote though Aaron is outraged. Of course, Aaron also says he does not believe the massacres are anything more than stories. He says the Germans have a reputation that lends itself to such horror stories, but not even the Germans would go to this extreme.

Pug is introduced to a the governor who acknowledges the introduction in a bored monotone. When the governor is introduced to Lady Aster—the new skipper of the Devilfish—the bored look is immediately gone. Pug is later asked to invited Aster to the anniversary party so that Tudsbury can talk to him and Pug notes that he is "peevish" about it, but does not like the cocky young man.

It is interesting to note Pug seemed to be devastated by his wife's letter asking for a divorce, but now shares the request with Pamela. It is unclear whether he really wants to be with Pam or if he is merely feeling the pressure of the impending battle.

# Chapters 24 through 27

## Chapters 24 through 27 Summary

Victor joins Talky in his hotel room where Talky notes that Aster says one of the ships sank by the Devilfish under his command was a disguised hospital ship. Victor asks Talky to forget he heard the story, fearing the crew of the Devilfish would be court-martialed for firing on a ship that appeared to be a medical ship. Talky says he has already made that promise and asks Victor for information. Victor will tell him only that he should remain in Honolulu, but will give him no details. When Pamela joins them, she is suddenly warmer to Pug. She tells him she loves him, she's made plans to remain in Honolulu and the only way she will leave is for him to tell her to do so. Pug says he wants her to stay but warns her they are headed into battle, and then leaves for a meeting.

When Pug is having breakfast aboard the Northampton, Warren comes aboard. There is an indication Warren knows his father will be worried and he promises to wag his wings when returning in his plane to his own ship after the battle. He also tells his father there are many reasons why he might not be able to do that and to not worry.

An SS official named Lieutenant Eichmann visits Beck insisting Italian Jews be moved to German work camps. Eichmann makes no secret of the fact that the Jews are to be killed. Beck stalls, saying he is having difficulty with the Italian officials allowing the release. Eichmann says the key is to have a few moved, then allow the Italian government to seize their holdings and consider the profits. He guarantees the government will then be willing to make the arrangements. Eichmann then asks Beck about the Jastrows and Beck says he plans for Aaron Jastrow to do a radio broadcast condemning the war in an effort to demoralize the Americans.

Beck visits Aaron, requesting the radio broadcast but Aaron refuses. Aaron then tells Natalie to write a letter of acceptance and to visit Dr. Castlenuovo to find out what plans that family have made for escape and suggest they might join them.

At Auschwitz, Berel Jastrow is now part of a construction crew. As such, he is treated somewhat better than others though conditions remain abysmal. The Commandant personally observes some of the work in preparation of a visit by his commander. Upon his arrival, the Commandant pleads for a crematorium because of the increasing problem with buried bodies. The crematorium is approved. During the tour, a train filled with Jews arrives. With the exception of the few men suitable for labor, they are herded off the train and into waiting trucks. They are then told to undress and herded into a sealed room where they are gassed. The process has been honed by the officers. When the prisoners arrive, they are given information about mail delivery and told their luggage will be delivered to their quarters. Along the way to the gas chamber, they are given additional information designed to keep them calm. The Commandant admits he



is taking credit for a process not entirely his idea, but that he will be the one to take the blame if there is a problem.

There follows another excerpt from the book "Holocaust" by Armin von Roon. Roon notes that the battle at Midway was important but no one outside the battle grounds realized the importance of it. He writes that even in the U.S., the full report was not given much press. The plan to attack Midway was a reaction to the Doolittle Raids, and was poorly planned and flawed. Radio communications were deciphered by the Americans, so they knew the Japanese battle plan and could counter the attack.

## Chapters 24 through 27 Analysis

Pamela asks Pug about the divorce request from his wife and indicates that it has "muddied the waters." She seems to be indicating she wants to have an affair with Pug but not at the risk of his marriage. Pug is certainly interested in more than an affair. By the following morning, he has put aside his fantasy and seems to have decided he is going to make a reasonable settlement on Rhoda, marry Pamela and start a new life—perhaps even with more children.

As Beck is talking to Eichmann, it is easy to see that he does not want to participate in the eradication of the Jews. Then he notes that wars always end and there is bound to be an accounting for this type of action. While he does seem to have moral convictions, it seems he is also interested in saving himself a trial later. Natalie's concerns that Beck is not looking out for their best interests are confirmed and Aaron suddenly seems to see that Natalie's escape from Italy might be more difficult than he imagined.

The Commandant himself has apparently at least considered what would happen if the Germans do not win the war, though he seems to prefer not to think about it. He does say he is careful not to look at the faces of the men while his commander is present, lest he indicate some weakness. He also notes that the women seem more courageous than the men, though it may be simply that they are distracted by the fact of their nakedness or their concern about their children.

Pug Henry, who translated Roon's text, says that all Roon's information is not correct. In fact, the Americans "teased" information from the attacking Japanese by sending false signals. He says there was at least some guesswork involved and the American interception and attack was "daring."



# Chapters 28 through 32

## Chapters 28 through 32 Summary

Pug, aboard the Northampton, and Warren, above the Enterprise and waiting to fly in his bomber plane, sail for Midway in an effort to intercept the Japanese. The Enterprise is under the command of Raymond Spruance and his men are not happy about his position of authority. They do not believe he is qualified. The pilots are called to their planes but Spruance issues a recall, saying the men will spend hours in their cockpits and should be allowed to remain in a more relaxed atmosphere as long as possible. Warren heads out to battle while Pug watches from the Northampton.

Aaron Jastrow writes that things are more serious than he had first thought. He says Natalie seems paralyzed, unable to make a decision. He is writing his memoirs at this point, called "A Jew's Journey." He notes there is a Turkish ship with British clearance that makes good money delivering tobacco to the Allies, but the captain becomes wealthy carrying Jews willing to pay gold for passage. Aaron says he thought the Archbishop would help, but that the man says only that the stories of Jewish massacres cannot be true. Aaron thinks the man is unconcerned because his own safety is ensured.

Vice Admiral Nagumo is commanding the Japanese fleet about to hit Midway. There are a number of mistakes on both sides and Warren Henry's patrol have trouble locating the Japanese ships. Nagumo wavers on the best use of his planes and has the bombs replaced by torpedoes, then orders the bombs put back. The Japanese counter the strikes by pilots from Midway and several of the Midway planes simply crash on their own—all without doing any damage to the Japanese fleet. Then, in a complete "freak accident," squadrons approach the Japanese ships in what appeared to be a coordinated effort. Warren Henry's own bomb is a direct hit and he, along with his gunner, Cornet, fight off an air attack.

They are headed back toward their ship but Henry notes that his fuel is "too low to think about." The rudder on Warren's plane is damaged but he remains optimistic. Cornet says he is not sorry he is in the precarious position simply because he is proud to have been part of the attack. Warren notes that he has had to ditch a plane before and is not particularly afraid of that option, especially now that radio silence is no longer required and he can activate the homing beacon.

Armin von Roon writes that the "Five Minutes of Midway" decided that the Japanese would be defeated though the country would endure years of war and the atomic bomb before they would admit that defeat. He notes that the three ships destroyed at Midway "embodied the national strength and treasure of Japan." Roon notes that Spruance made three important decisions—to send the planes out early in order that they would have the advantage of surprise; to remove himself from immediate fighting in order to be in position to protect Midway; and to break off the battle once he felt they had done



"all the damage we are going to do." Just as importantly, Roon notes the loss demoralized the Japanese, effectively putting them "on the run" for the remainder of the war.

The Japanese are not the only ones dealing with incomplete and incorrect information. Midway planes send an array of conflicting reports regarding the position, number and condition of Japanese ships. Meanwhile, Spruance orders a change of course that further undermines the confidence of the crew who believe he should chase the Japanese and finish the battle they have begun. For his part, Spruance overestimates the combat readiness of the men who had—until this point—had no real battle experience. When Captain Browning virtually demands that the planes be sent out to search for Japanese ships, Spruance eventually gives in. Warren and other pilots calculate they will not have sufficient fuel to execute the plan and Spruance listens, modifying the plan so that all the planes have ample fuel to make it back. They arrive back after dark and Spruance—with Browning's urging—turns on the deck lights for the planes to land. The action is taken despite the fact they will then be targets themselves. All the planes except one lands safely and the crew is rescued.

The next round of bombers are sent out when two Japanese ships are spotted the following day. Though they have rammed each other and are floundering, the bombers are intent on completely destroying them. Warren is among those who attack and he is shot down. His final thought is of his father, and the fact that Pug would be proud of Warren. His plane catches fire and he is burned severely, then cooled as the ocean water hits him just before the plane explodes.

## Chapters 28 through 32 Analysis

When the order to take off arrives, the bombers fly circles above the Enterprise for almost an hour before Spruance gives the order for them to attack without the support of their fellow pilots. What looks like a foolish order is actually calculated by Spruance as an opportunity to have the bombers do some damage without leaving the fleet of ships in danger—Spruance's direct order. With complete radio silence ordered, Pug can only hope the plan makes more sense than the pieces of the battle he is seeing from his position.

It seems Aaron is suddenly more aware of the situation and more ready to do something to escape now he is being put on the spot to produce the radio broadcasts. He claims to be looking after Natalie's best interests as well and there seems little doubt he has them in mind, but it is obvious he was not nearly as concerned before the issue of the radio broadcasts were involved. It also seems the threat of death is not really an issue for Aaron, but sullyng his reputation—as he feels these broadcasts will do—is another matter.

It is actually pride that causes Nagumo to make the rash decision to turn his own ships to face the threat of the incoming American ships. He is urged by a subordinate to launch the attack planes and obstinately refuses—simply because he was told it was



the correct thing to do. He is also working with poor intelligence as his search plan has not reported all the ships approaching. When Nagumo's ship is going down, he continues to say there is no need to abandon ship but the young subordinate, Yamaguchi, has already ordered a counterstrike. The author indicates Nagumo will meet Spruance again in two years and will be killed in that battle.

It is interesting that Roon commends Spruance on his decisions leading up to and during the battle. The men under Spruance's command previously worried he simply was not qualified for the command position. When Spruance turns the ships away from the Japanese, the men further lose confidence in their leader, branding him as unwilling to finish what they believe to be a historic battle.

Pug notes that the day spent worrying about Warren ages him. It is apparent that Pug feels guilty because Warren is in the heat of battle while he—Pug—is not firing a single round. He considers a Bible verse during the day—"O my son, Absalom, my son, my son. Would God I had died for thee! O Absalom, my son, my son."

It is interesting to note that Warren himself seems to have spent some time thinking. He opens the Bible one sleepless night and reads the verse from Kings, "Thus saith the Lord, set thy house in order; for thou shalt die and not live." Warren reads other passages that night and does a lot of thinking about other matters. He considers his father's military career a virtual waste. When Warren is among those who questions their original flight orders, Spruance says his father would simply have obeyed. Warren admits he would have, but says he would also have pointed out none of the planes had a chance of survival. It is then that Spruance changes his mind about the order.



# Chapters 33 through 38

## Chapters 33 through 38 Summary

Rhoda takes a train to Hollywood to be near Madeline and Byron. Madeline has been put in charge of a party at the home of Harry Tomlin and Rhoda is whisked off to that event as soon as she reaches Hollywood. She tries to beg off but Madeline says the Tudsburys are expecting to see her and Rhoda agrees to attend. After the dinner, Talky gives a speech—which is not well received. Rhoda and Pamela are walking side-by-side as they leave and Pam asks Rhoda to join her for breakfast the next day. Rhoda notes that Pam looks ill and has no makeup. The next morning, she notes that Pam looks better, almost as if she is going to meet a man.

As they sit at the table, Pam says she loves Pug and that she had planned to be with him until Warren's death. Since that time, Pug has sent her away. Pam says she does not want to hurt Rhoda in her time of grief, but that she should devote herself to making her husband happy. She also reveals that someone sent Pug letters offering details of Rhoda's affair. Rhoda asks if they have slept together and Pam denies that, saying Pug's devotion to Rhoda is at least part of his appeal. When Pam leaves, Rhoda sits to consider what she knows of the situation, thinks she cannot be sure Pug did not sleep with Pam, and then realizes that for just a few minutes she forgot about Warren's death.

Natalie and Aaron pack only three small suitcases as they prepare to go on a two-week holiday by the sea at the home of their friends, the Sacerdotes. The Castelnuovos are along as well. They plan to secure passage on a ship out of the country but receive word the original plan has to be changed. They are given two options—take an ore ship to Marseilles at a cost of five hundred dollars per passenger or make their way to Elba to await word from those making the arrangements for secret travel for Jews. While they are still deciding, Beck arrives and pushes Aaron to be ready for broadcasting in less than a week. With the ore boats not scheduled back immediately, they make the decision to go on to Elba.

Madeline and Byron go riding at the Bel Aire Riding Stables and she says she has a job offer from Lenny Spreregen—a new Hollywood movie producer. Byron says immediately she should take it, leaving Hugh Cleveland's employ. Madeline says Hugh has proposed and is working on a divorce from his current wife. When Byron says he plans to talk to Hugh, Madeline seems relieved, saying she cannot stop him. When Byron confronts Hugh, he says only that it is easy to get into marriage but hard to get out. He says he is in "a bitch of a bind," but does not ever say he is actually trying to get a divorce or that he plans to marry Madeline. Byron advises Madeline to quit, telling her what he learned and saying that if she truly wants Hugh to make a move, her quitting might prompt him to action.

Madeline later tells Byron she has quit. She says Hugh was nice, saying Byron was right and Madeline should be out of the picture while Hugh seeks his divorce. Then she





says she gave a month's notice which makes Byron angry. She points out that Byron or Pug would not walk off their job without someone to replace them and Byron becomes more angry. He says she had better not compare what she does with what he, his father and Warren have devoted their lives to. They argue some more before Rhoda comes in, carrying lots of shopping bags and announcing she is going to Hawaii to be with Pug.

Leslie Slote hears that Natalie, Aaron and Louis disappeared while on a seaside holiday and he is immediately certain Natalie is being her typical self, rushing off into a situation and this time with her baby. While Leslie is debating whether to write Byron about the situation, he receives a visit from Wayne Beall of the Geneva consulate. Beall and Slote talk to Slote's superior who has previously dismissed information about the German's mass slaughter of Jews. The man briefly points out that Beall has nothing new and no substantiated reports. Slote asks how reports can possibly be substantiated when everyone who knows about the murders is either a German soldier or in fear of their lives. The minister dismisses Beall and tells Slote that he has given the subject some thought and believes the stories are true. He has met with roadblocks as he tries to get the information to the proper officials. The minister tells Slote he plans to send him stateside with some information but wants him to go to Geneva in an attempt to gather more documentation first.

Kirby Palmer is preparing to meet Rhoda at the train station near his Chicago office but first meets with Colonel Harrison Peters. Peters is an Army official securing materials for scientists working on the development of an atomic bomb, just as Kirby is doing in the private sector. They talk, then Kirby leaves to meet Rhoda. They have dinner and Kirby soon cuts to the bottom line—that Rhoda is breaking off their relationship. She confirms this and he says he understands. They finish dinner and watch a movie then Kirby escorts her to catch her midnight train. He briefly considers trying to win her back but thinks that cuckolding a man who is away fighting a war is despicable and that he deserves the loneliness that is sure to follow. Rhoda enters the train where she encounters Peters.

Pamela writes a letter to Pug, filled with news about the war, her visit with Byron and her thoughts on her life. She says she hopes he is not angry because of her talk with Rhoda but that she felt Rhoda should know she had come close to losing Pug. She writes that the moment she saw Pug after the battle at Midway, she knew what had happened and that she was useless to him in his grief. She says she believes she will soon be receiving a marriage proposal from a viscount named Duncan Burne-Wilke and she wants Pug's blessing on the arrangement.

Pamela notes she plans to send the letter with someone who will mail it from New York. In fact, the letter is mailed but does not reach the Northampton before it goes down off Guadalcanal.





## Chapters 33 through 38 Analysis

On the train to Hollywood, Rhoda considers all the things she plans to do differently. She seems to be atoning for her sins because of Warren's death. She says she wants nothing more than to care for her marriage and be a good wife. She is spending lots of time in church as well. She also spends a great deal of time thinking over the past, including train trips with Pug, train trips with the children as they were moved to a new assignment and the last time the entire family was together.

There is really no indication in this book of how Rhoda and Pam Tudsbury know each other but the two are apparently at least somewhat acquainted. Rhoda, armed with the knowledge that Pug was at least on the verge of having an affair, seems to hold onto that information in case she needs it for ammunition later. She notes that Pam seemed honest when saying they had not slept together, but admits she cannot be certain.

Natalie is now second-guessing herself about going on or returning to Siena. It seems even more difficult once the elderly Sacerdotes say they will return because their son remains in the city. Natalie's resolve seems to strengthen when Beck—dressed in an SS uniform—holds Louis. Though he is gentle with the child, Natalie realizes the fate of any Jew who does not flee is in question.

Byron once sees Madeline and Hugh kissing and Byron, knowing Hugh is married, remains angry about the situation. He says Madeline should simply walk away from Hugh but Madeline tells him it is "serious," though there is no need for a "shotgun" approach. Though Madeline and Byron have no way of knowing what might happen, Hugh hints Sprengen's career is not solid. Madeline notes Hugh said he knew she was going to leave once he discovered she had talked to Byron about the situation.

There are several reasons Slote's boss changes his mind about the mass murders. He has seen the trains carrying large numbers of Jews return empty, and the transport trains continue to run while the German military is without transportation. He is also looking at the government's requirement for Jews to be allowed out of the country—a letter saying that person is in current good standing in his or her community. The letter must be provided by the police in that community which is impossible if a Jew is fleeing.

Rhoda dresses carefully for her meeting with Kirby, knowing she is breaking it off with him. She admits that a woman who is dumping a man—or who is about to be dumped—wants to be certain that man is saddened rather than relieved. Kirby does admire her, even though he admits their relationship seems to have wound down. He sees Peters with a young woman in a too-tight dress and says Rhoda is much more attractive though she is at an age disadvantage. He does seem to regret they are not going to make it work, at least partly because of the time he spent away from her.

It seems Pamela, though she says she has given up on her relationship with Pug, is holding onto the hope he will call on her to turn down the viscount likely to propose. She asks Pug's blessing on her marriage, almost begging Pug to say he wants her back. She says she does not love this man, but never says whether her love for Pug remains.



# Chapters 39 through 44

## Chapters 39 through 44 Summary

There follows another excerpt from Roon's book. He notes the German people now are "cowed" because "twelve brief years of Nazi mistakes and crimes have eclipsed the proud record of centuries." However, in the summer of 1942, the Germans were mighty and in control. Soon after, the Allies met the Japanese at Guadalcanal where seven of the eleven Japanese ships were sunk.

Natalie and her party are in Elba, living in a small, dilapidated cottage. They are sometimes fed by peasants and sometimes buy food on their own. They have been here for some days and Natalie is beginning to worry when a man, Pascal, knocks at their door and says they are to come with him. Castlenuovo, the doctor in the party, knows the man and they make first a wagon trip down the mountain, then a dangerous water crossing before spending a night in a small cottage. The next day, they continue their trip on a train to the home of Pascal's parents who are instrumental in helping Jews escape. They stay with a family named Gaffori in Corte, France.

Avram Rabinovitz, the man who had been their leader when Natalie and the others first began their trip aboard the Izmir, soon makes the trip by train to Corte. Natalie confides in him that Pascal once came into her bedroom and propositioned her and she put him off by saying she was ill. Rabinovitz agrees to help her and her uncle move to another location nearer their intended stepping off place for America. Natalie says she feels she is abandoning the Castelnuovo family and Rabinovitz says she has people in high places willing to help her but no one will do anything for the Castelnuovo family. As Natalie and the others talk after Rabinovitz leaves, their concern is for the Castelnuovo's daughter, Mariam, and the possibility of a long walk over the mountains to safety during the harsh November climate. Mariam's father says the child is strong and if she is required to walk over the mountains in snow, she will.

Byron is sent to Marseilles as a military courier with a special delivery. While there, he takes time to search for word of Natalie. He first encounters Luke Babbage who makes remarks against Aaron's writing though he has never read the book and against Jews in general. He then goes to a Quaker agency but they have received special permission to transport five thousand Jewish children from the country and have no time to talk to him. Next, he visits a Jewish agency and talks with Joe Schwartz who tells him he should see Jim Gaither, though Gaither is not available now. Schwartz confirms the Jews are being murdered and that the French government is allowing their transport. As they part, Byron asks what "somebody like me" can do to help the effort. Schwartz says he should go "win the war."

When he arrives back at his current assignment in Gibraltar, Byron finds Aster has been assigned as skipper of a new submarine and has requested Byron. Byron decides he will courier one more message before he leaves for the assignment.



Natalie, Aaron and Louis are staying with a plumber named Itzhak Mendelson. Mendelson knows many important officials and though there have been roundups of Jews in the neighborhood, officials have not entered his home. Byron soon returns to Marseilles with his second delivery and he immediately sees Gaither who tells him Natalie, Aaron and Louis are fine and nearby. Byron begins to insist he see them but Gaither urges patience. That evening, Natalie has plans to go to Rabinovitz's apartment though she notes she made similar plans once before and they ended in an affair. This time, she says she is simply trying to escape the incessant noise and activity of their current. During dinner, before they leave for Rabinovitz's apartment, he is called away. While Natalie is doing dishes, he returns with Byron.

There follows another excerpt from Roon's manuscript. Roon indicates that one problem Americans faced was that they were not willing to face "austerities" such as rationing and losses on the battlefields. He says the Germans were willing to make those sacrifices. He also notes the Americans and their President were not of one accord on the action that should be taken. President Roosevelt's plan was to take Germany first but Americans were clamoring for revenge for Pearl Harbor—an attack on the Japanese. Roon goes on to describe tensions between Allied leaders and subsequent attacks. Pug notes that Roon's view of things is distorted and he seems to believe it was easy, when in actually thorough planning prompted Allied wins.

## Chapters 39 through 44 Analysis

Roon's assessment of Hitler, according to Pug Henry who translates the text, is accurate. Pug notes that at one point, an Allied force out fights a German battleship and cruiser and Hitler is so angry that he orders the guns moved for land use and the ships scrapped. Pug calls this a "tantrum." Roon himself notes Hitler's pride and that he is "pigheaded."

Rabinovitz admits to being taken with Natalie though he says her looks are only part of the allure—aided by the daring she exhibited by her marriage to a dashing submariner. When he tells Natalie he will help them move to another location away from Pascal, she kisses him on the cheek. He points out that an action similar to that is what caused the situation with Pascal and she responds she is not afraid Rabinovitz will end up in her bed in the middle of the night as Pascal did.

It seems Byron is within shouting distance of Natalie and Louis while in Marseilles though he does not know it. Rabinovitz has apparently helped Natalie with the move as he promised and she is in Marseilles while Byron is searching for her. Byron continues to worry about their safety but realizes that Babbage is not the person who can—or would—actually help. Byron correctly decides that he should not give Babbage all the information about Natalie, but does tell Schwartz. Byron holds out hope Gaither will be able to help find his wife and child.

Though Natalie is anxious, she seems more relaxed at Marseilles than in the past. Generally, Natalie aches to move on while Aaron finds contentment wherever they happen to be.

Roon compares the roundup of Japanese in America to the slaughter of Jews in Germany. Pug Henry, adding a footnote, indicates there is no comparison. He does not support the roundup and imprisonment of the Japanese, but says they were not faced with mass murders and their property was returned to them upon their release. He notes the "distinction seems to escape" Roon.



# Chapters 44 through 49

## Chapters 44 through 49 Summary

Natalie and Byron endure a short time of pleasantries with the other members of the household then Natalie, Byron and Louis retire to Natalie's bedroom. Natalie and Byron lock in a passionate embrace, then Byron breaks away and points out Louis is watching them. Natalie suggests she get the youngster ready for bed and Byron says that is better than his idea, which is to cover the crib "like a parrot cage." Natalie expects Byron will spend the night but he says she must hurry and pack because he is catching a train shortly and wants to take her and Louis along. Natalie agrees but Rabinovitz insists they first talk to Gaither about the plan.

Gaither points out the flaws—if they are stopped Natalie is a Jewess with a Jewish child and that regulations simply do not apply for the Gestapo. Byron insists he can talk their way through any situation but Natalie is afraid for Louis's sake and decides to wait. Gaither assures them the visas are on the way that will allow Natalie, Aaron and Louis to leave legally within days.

The Northampton and several other ships are off the coast of Tulagi and closing in on Japanese when they take heavy torpedo fire. The Northampton is hit though Pug tries evasive maneuvers, and immediately begins to list. They lose engines and Pug notes the gigantic hole visible in the side of the ship just above the water line—one of two major hits. The crew fights fires and tends the wounded while Pug gives orders to try to make it to shore. He and his first officer, Jim Griggs, realize they are not going to make it and Pug gives the order to abandon ship. He sends Griggs with the final few items—the ship's flag and Pug's personal photos, including one of Pam. Griggs objects to leaving but Pug orders him off the ship.

Berel Jastrow is outside relieving himself when he sees the flames from the incinerator. He notes that no cost or effort has been spared in the construction. There is a sudden influx of items, brought by the Jews being slaughtered. The SS officers and even the prisoners are taking advantage for various reasons—some prisoners using the goods simply to eat better or to enable escape or resistance. With these goods, there is an established, unstoppable black market. Berel and many of the others know the orders are that they are to be killed as soon as the crematorium is finished. They therefore watch the testing with intense interest. Just as they think they might be nearing the ends of their lives, they are transported to Cracow, another camp, to construct another crematorium. Berel and his friend and mentor, Mutterperl, are carrying rolls of undeveloped film and have memorized the names of members of the resistance and the person who is to receive the film.

In another excerpt from Roon, a more personal look at Hitler is provided. Roon remembers seeing him in thick reading glasses the public never saw, throwing a tantrum as he ordered the impossible from his troops. Roon writes Hitler was bored by



logistics and simply did not want to know or even think about details such as how to get supplies to a particular unit. In this way, he left a battle commanded by Roon stranded without sufficient gas to complete their attack or to retreat.

Pug stops in to see Janice and learns she has spent some time with Aster, but Janice says it is not serious. She says she does not intend to be widowed twice in the same war. She notes the change in Pug and is worried.

Pug makes it to headquarters where he wonders if he might be chastised or worse for losing the Northampton. Once there, he talks to Spruance then to Admiral Nimitz. He explains the Japanese torpedoes have longer ranges than the American torpedoes and that he had wanted revenge for his fellow captains who had taken hits, prompting him to turn into the battle rather than away from it. Instead of being criticized, he is commended on the small number of casualties and offered a position on Spruance's staff—a serious step up for Pug. He notes he is interested then leaves for the airport to catch his flight to Washington. He sees headlines on a newspaper that indicate Alastair Tudsbury—Talky—has been killed.

Leslie Slote visits Pam who is working on a final story written by her father. She tells Slote she was supposed to go with Talky, but he decided at the last minute she should not, leaving her behind. She says they had a fight on the subject and parted with angry words, but now puts it down to a premonition on the part of her father who was killed by a land mine. Slote tells Pamela the Northampton has gone down. She checks with her contacts and discovers Pug is alive and on his way to Washington. Slote then tells Pam the biggest story of her writing career should be the mass murder of Jews in concentration camps. Both Pam and her editor decline to follow the story.

Slote catches a plane back to his assignment, picks up a paper and reads Talky's final story. It outlines the carnage left from Rommel's foiled attack because of a lack of supplies including fuel.

## Chapters 44 through 49 Analysis

Once Natalie is afraid to leave with Louis, she feels Byron become distant. It seems that Byron, in his anxiety to have Natalie and Louis with him, is willing to risk anything. Natalie has lived with the fear and insecurity and considered the risks for months. She says that it would have been better if Byron hadn't found them because the entire situation wouldn't have arisen. Instead, she fears Byron thinks she's a coward when she only wants to protect their baby. The two are stilted toward each other as Byron prepares to leave.

It is interesting to note that Pug has received his orders to leave the Northampton as soon as he is relieved by Jim Griggs. However, Griggs has not yet received the order to take over the ship, otherwise Pug would have likely been on his way to Washington for a new assignment. He remains until the last moment when he knows that trying to save the ship is only endangering the lives of his men. He is the last to leave, pausing for a



moment to look over the ship and to remember those who died that day. He notes that it is not an American tradition for the captain to go down with the ship because the captain should live to fight another day. Soon after they are off the ship, the Northampton sinks.

The commandant and SS Colonel Blobel spend hours talking over liquor and discover they are "kindred spirits." They agree their work is detestable and that killing women and children seems cruel, but they are convinced absolute loyalty is necessary and killing the Jews is the only way to save civilized Europe.

Roon writes that Rommel came to know Hitler as incompetent and to hate the entire Nazi organization. It seems that those closest to Hitler saw him for what he was before most of the rest of the world acknowledged it.

Pug is very quiet with Janice and seems almost to condemn the fact that she has seen Aster. Though time has passed since Warren's death, Janice says Pug has never mentioned Warren to her. He does stop and look at Warren's photo hanging on the wall of Janice's new home, but then moves on without saying anything else.

A short time after Slote leaves, Pam—who appeared completely unconcerned about Pug—tells her editor she would like to try to her hand at news writing on her own. She has written for Talky for some time and the editor knows this, so is willing to give her a chance. She asks to go to Washington, where she knows Pug is headed, and her editor approves the plan. It is interesting that Pam so thoroughly disapproves of Natalie's decision to stay in Marseilles. She points out that Natalie was once fearless but Slote says Natalie was right to wait because of the potential danger. He says she and Louis could have been thrown into a concentration camp, which prompts Pam to think Slote's passion over the concentration camp story is guilt that he did not do something to help Natalie.





# Chapters 50 through 55

## Chapters 50 through 55 Summary

Pug arrives home but rushes right off to check out his orders, leaving Rhoda at home. Sime Anderson, the young man who admires Madeline, is visiting when Pug returns. He worked on another military project but is soon being told about the American Navy scientists' work on a super bomb that uses uranium. Sime has no aspirations at sea and is anxious for the opportunity to work on this project.

Pug is to report the following day to the White House and he and Rhoda spend an uncomfortable evening together. At the end of the day, he is almost drunk, very tired and falls into bed alone. He wakes in the middle of the night, goes downstairs and discovers Rhoda has put together a scrapbook of Warren's life, beginning with baby pictures and ending with his newspaper obituary. After some whiskey, Pug returns to the bedroom and sees Rhoda in her own bed. He wonders how she could have faced her memories and put together the scrapbook when he cannot even yet say his son's name aloud.

Pug visits with President Roosevelt who remembers to ask about Rhoda, asks how they are holding up after Warren's death, and inquires about Byron and Natalie. It takes Pug only a short time to realize he is being asked to take over production of landing craft—and at the President's request. Though he wants to return to Honolulu, he does not want to turn down the President. He is given ten days leave and Roosevelt tells him to spend some time with his wife before reporting for duty.

Leslie Slote manages to get the United States to release an article outlining the atrocities against the Jews, but he feels important facts have been cut and he is disturbed there will be no supporting documentation released. He feels this means it will be ignored. Meanwhile, he receives a message from Selma Ascher Wurtweiler, heavily pregnant, who brings her husband along to meet Leslie for lunch.

Slote later meets Assistant Secretary of State Breckinridge Long who commends Slote on his prudent decision not to release the information he has come across outlining Jewish murders. Slote is then told there is no way to eliminate requirements such as the need for paperwork—even from Jews who are fleeing for their lives. Otherwise, Breckinridge notes, the criminals could just as easily enter the United States as the honest people.

Leslie Slote attends dinner at the Henry home and tells them Natalie is safe for the moment. He does later tell Pug she is in great danger and he should call in any favors from the White House to help her escape. When Pug talks about it later with Rhoda, she says bringing attention to Natalie might be worse for her than letting things run their natural course.





For the first time in some time, Aaron writes in his journal. He is filled with self-doubt and regret that Natalie and Louis are in custody because of him. He notes there is an attempt at an exchange that will release several of the Americans being held by the Germans but it has not yet come to pass. Aaron also believes Natalie would have been better off to have "run through the flames" to safety with Byron but Gaither insists it was too dangerous and they might still escape to safety.

After a lot of reminiscing on New Year's Eve, Pug decides to go to the White House after all and is immediately asked again to sign on to oversee the production of landing craft. The President meanwhile says Pug's presence has been requested in Moscow. Pug says he has been offered a position on staff in Honolulu but then tells Roosevelt that he will go wherever he is told. Roosevelt says he wants Pug in Moscow and he goes home to tell Rhoda.

## Chapters 50 through 55 Analysis

Both Pug and Rhoda admit they are relieved that they were not forced into bed together on his first night home. Rhoda then thinks back over her options. She believes that her respectability is caught up in remaining Mrs. Victor Henry, but is glad to have the continuing admiration of Harrison as well—just as an "insurance policy," as she puts it. Rhoda and Pug sleep in separate beds and she briefly considers crawling into bed with him after her bath but decides he might take it as an attempt to use her body to win him back.

When Pug returns home, he discovers Rhoda in a negligee with a fire in the fireplace, caviar and drinks waiting. He admits he is stirred by her actions and her appearance. They make love but Pug is fully aware she has been with another man. While they continue their interlude to conclusion, he notes there is something faintly disgusting about it at the end.

Leslie is faced with the plans of Julius Wurtweiler who believes the Jews can all be moved from Germany. Leslie suddenly finds himself looking at a plan he believes cannot work, just as others have looked at Leslie's own ideas as unworkable. He offers up an alternative—to scare the Germans into stopping the murders and to encourage other nations to offer refuge to Jews already there, rather than allowing them to be shipped off to the concentration camps. Breckinridge does seem to be interested in Slote's opinions and ideas, though there is an edge to his statements that seems somewhat patronizing. Slote admits he might be deceived, but pledges to work with Breckinridge to determine what can happen. Slote will eventually learn that Breckinridge wants only to use him as someone who seems sympathetic to the Jews with no power to help.

Slote, who was once ignored by Pam because of Pug, shows Pug a small magazine article indicating Pam is on her way to Washington. Pug shows no emotion but hands the magazine to Rhoda, saying she had once asked what Pam would do now her father had died. Pug notes later that showing no emotion had been difficult and that taking a



position away from Washington would be the best course for him. Rhoda almost confronts Pug about what she knows, but decides to leave it alone.

When Pug says he is going to Moscow, Rhoda's disappointment prompts only a momentary feeling of love—making him think their marriage is all but finished. She says he will miss Byron, due in any day, and then says he will also miss Pamela. Pug notes that it is suddenly there in front of them, but they do not talk about it past that moment.



# Chapters 56 through 61

## Chapters 56 through 61 Summary

Byron arrives home two days after his father departs to discover Natalie has been moved to Germany. He drops in on Madeline and finds her just out of bed with Hugh Cleveland. Byron decks him but then mildly apologizes. Janice is aware he is on the way to Honolulu to report for duty and tells Aster he cannot spend time at her house while Byron is in town, and that he cannot let Byron know they are sleeping together.

Hilter's interests lie in the capture of men, as told by another excerpt from Roon's writing. In this case, he is looking to capture Russians and is angry because they are taking only tens of thousands of prisoners rather than hundreds of thousands. Hitler reacts and Roon notes that a fellow officer said the new orders "no longer bore resemblance to military realities." Roon writes that as the German army faces losses of their own, Hitler maintains—right up to the point of his suicide—that his generals failed him. Roon writes it should have been no surprise to the German people what kind of leader Hitler would be—he spelled it out in his own writing, *Mein Kampf*.

After another long delay explained largely by the poor conditions and poorer food, Aaron writes in his journal. He tells the story of the train ride with the others being detained and guarded by a stern German soldier. Then someone gives Louis a monkey that squeaks and he toddles up and down the train aisle, offering the toy up to passengers who oblige him by making the toy squeak. Eventually, he offers it to the German soldier. The man does not smile but makes the toy squeak to the laughter of everyone on the train, including the guard.

Aaron is ill and is eventually diagnosed as having diverticulitis. He notes he might need an operation but that he will not be separated from Natalie, even if he dies at the hotel. He writes about his conversations with a young doctor he does not name. He says this doctor has compared the Nazi take-over of Germany to a take-over of America by the Ku Klux Klan. He says the "other Germany"—those who do not support Hitler's ideas—lives on and he hopes Aaron will tell that story once he returns to America. Pug later learns Aaron has been moved to Paris for surgery with Natalie and Louis in tow.

Madam Rosen operates an orphanage that houses Jewish children, including Miriam Castelnuovo. Though Jewish children continue to be dropped on her doorstep—many by the police—she is concerned there will come a time when they will be rounded up like all the rest of the Jews. With that in mind, she considers burning records but feels the records may save at least some of the children. Many, like Miriam, are without any identification at all. SS Lieutenant Nagel is searching for one thousand Jews to meet his current quota. He decides the children from the orphanage will suffice and has them all transported onto a train bound for the concentration camps.



Pug begins his trip to Moscow by reading a letter from Pam indicating she is soon to be on her way to Washington. She again tells Pug that her earlier letter informed him of her engagement and requested his blessing. He is temporarily stopped in Bermuda then continues to Moscow where he begins working by meeting with a Russian official, General Yevlenko, who invites Pug to go along to Leningrad to view the situation and to see how American provisions are being used. He tells Pug that his mother died of starvation at Leningrad. The city was besieged early in the war. Though details were in question, it seems there were hundreds of thousands of deaths, many of starvation, and stories of cannibalism persist. Pug makes a fast tour of Russia and prepares to report on what he has seen. He also sends a secret report to the president by way of a trusted secretary with additional notes.

## Chapters 56 through 61 Analysis

It seems Janice is settling into life without Warren. She is spending time with Aster though she says it is nothing more than "unauthorized ass" and that she does not want anything more from him. However, when he and Byron are shipping out, she notes that she "loved two men." She does not elaborate and the reader is left to decide who those two are.

It is interesting to note that Roon talks at length of Hitler's great achievement in making himself the head of the nation with no appeal. Roon writes that there was "nobody to topple the Nazis." Roon says he thought about how easy it would be for someone in the room with Hitler to simply shoot him. He says Hitler depended on their sense of honor and duty to keep that from happening, and it did.

Aaron begins to talk about his own disbelief in the Jewish religion. He says that many young men returned from university "smelling of pork"—an indication they had left the Jewish rules behind. Aaron himself cites his own curiosity as the reason for his defection. However, though he became an unbeliever, he did continue to conform because it was expected of him. Aaron converted to Catholicism and has the papers to prove it. Those might get him out of persecution but he says he is reluctant to produce them because he might be separated from Natalie.

Through every transportation, the Jews are fed some story and they invariably buy into it. In the case of the orphanage, Madam Rosen is told the military needs their current orphanage building and that they are to be moved to a ski resort, renovated for an orphanage and already housing orphans from the area. This place is reportedly complete with school rooms, a hospital and playgrounds. Madam Rosen takes the children and goes without a fuss. There is no doubt she is afraid but seems unable to do anything to stop the process.

Pug notes that Pamela's letter has exactly the right tone under the circumstances and he seems much cheered after reading her letter, though he does not elaborate on the contents or the details. When Pug returns to Moscow, he has a letter from Rhoda, full of concern that she does not know how things are with them though she was happy during

his time at home. She says Byron feels Natalie let him down and she is not certain he will forgive her.



# Chapters 62 through 66

## Chapters 62 through 66 Summary

Berel and Mutterperl are on grave detail when Berel begins seeing signs of madness in his friend. The men are among those uncovering mass graves, removing the badly decayed bodies, searching for anything valuable, then burning the bodies. Berel and Mutterperl have planned to escape and Mutterperl wants it to be now. However, Berel knows they must reach Prague and that is a long way from their current position, all through territory occupied by Germans. He is for waiting. Mutterperl begins saying they should grab guns from the guards and kill as many as possible before escaping. Berel tells him it is not possible. They continue to see one SS guard who pisses on the Jews buried in the mass graves. One day, Mutterperl grabs a gun and kills four SS soldiers before being shot and killed himself. Berel notes it is now up to him to get the information about all the murders to their contact in Prague.

Byron and Aster are on patrol in the submarine the Moray. They have dealt with problems, the biggest being the number of duds among their store of torpedoes. When Aster finally gets the opportunity for a hit, he does so with force, attacking two Japanese ships then surfacing to survey the damage. There are Japanese soldiers abandoning ship into lifeboats as the ship sinks. Aster orders his men to open fire on the Japanese, though they are unarmed and most of them are in the water. His first officer requests he not take that action but Aster tells the men that the Japanese are targets of war and they open fire until all are dead. They have two additional confirmed hits before the end of the day, and both ships sink. They return to Pearl Harbor to find officers ready to congratulate them and positive reports in the newspapers. It is not until after the war that the truth of the attacks are made public. Officially at the time, Aster's commanding officer commends him.

The first officer requests a transfer and Aster asks Byron if he also wants to leave. Byron does not say "no" but says he has not asked for a transfer. Aster says he wants Byron to take the open position and that he is already put in the request for the transfer.

Leslie Slote writes a letter to his former boss, Bill Tuttle, who in turn sends it to President Roosevelt's attention. The memorandum lays clear what Leslie believes of the entire situation involving the German slaughter of Jews. He says the American people are currently unwilling to open their borders to the Jews seeking refuge, but will be looking for someone to blame once the full extent of the atrocities come to light. The reason people are not already fully aware is simple—the human mind cannot imagine the extent of the slaughter going on. Slote accuses Breckinridge of working to stop any Jewish immigration and says the man looks upon the extermination of Jews as a "clever trick to get around the immigration laws."

In Paris, Aaron is slowly recovering while Natalie is spending her time indoors with Louis. She dashes to and from the hospital to visit Aaron, always concerned that she



will be questioned. She checks in weekly as assigned by the Germans. Though Paris is occupied by Germans, there are operas, theater and restaurants. Natalie is recruited by a comtess to work in a library. She is working when Dr. Beck arrives. He tells her he has known of her travels all along and he now wishes Aaron to do the broadcasts as he promised. Natalie says she sees no choice but the next day, talking to the Comtess, the two women come to the conclusion that the Swiss will do nothing to help her if the Germans try to take her into custody. They attempt to leave the city but are stopped when a German doctor declares Aaron too unwell to travel.

Roon's writings next describe Hitler, saying that none of the other officers who saw him regularly have done so. All were killed, committed suicide or died from the strain of their positions. Those who did write, were "understandably" silent about Hitler's personality. He says Hitler revealed himself as "low and ugly individual." He writes he was once invited to dinner at Hitler's home and that the man had terrible flatulence. That was not the only horrible thing as Hitler talked for hours straight, mainly railing against Italy, saying not only was Jesus a Jew, but the son of a Roman.

Pamela and Pug see each other only briefly upon her arrival in Moscow before he is pulled away for a meeting. The next day, she leaves with a group of journalists. When she returns, Pug has an obligation but he—along with the Russian and American officers he is working with—drop in on a party being thrown at Pam's hotel suite. Pug and Pam have a little time alone after the party breaks up. At his request, she agrees to try to stay a week.

## Chapters 62 through 66 Analysis

The SS officer, Blobel, is in charge of uncovering the mass graves and burning the bodies. He has not told anyone of his suspicions, but believes the reason for this duty is to cover their actions in case Germany loses the war—as Blobel believes will likely be the case. With this in mind, he is working out ways to make the process more streamlined with each camp. Without crematoriums, the bodies are piled on makeshift pyres made of sections of rail road tracks and burned. Even that is becoming a problem as there is not enough gas to make the bodies burn. The author goes into gory detail of the process, including the handling of the bodies which are very decayed.

Janice feeds Aster and Byron supper and Byron gives her a passionate kiss just before he goes to be in her spare room. She then slips out and spends several hours with Aster at a motel. When she returns, she says she feels somewhat guilty, as though she has committed adultery.

The author notes there is no way to know if Slote's letter was received by the President, but that public opinion has gradually swung toward outrage. The immigration issue is taken from Breckinridge and the entire State Department removed from power on that point. By then, Hitler's demented plan has long been in action.



Natalie always sensed something wicked in Beck, though Aaron first thought the man was trying to be helpful because he had once been Aaron's student. Now, when Natalie tells him Beck is again in the picture, Aaron realizes it is a problem. Though he is ill, he says he will travel with Natalie immediately. They plan to rejoin the other Americans in Baden-Baden where they were when Aaron became ill, hoping there will be safety from the administrator there. When they are not allowed to leave, Natalie "knew the game was lost."

Pug notes that Roon's opinion of Hitler changes over the course of his writings. Roon himself says his son was killed during one of Hitler's offensives that is merely a colossal mistake. Though Hitler does not apologize or even admit the error, he does decide the forces should now be elsewhere. Roon says his son died during the advance, but many more died during the retreat—all in an effort to allow Hitler to keep his head attached to his shoulders.

Pam tells Pug she does not love her fiancé, but that she needs "to land." He says she should wait for someone she loves and she says he does not understand her—she has room for one love and that person is Pug. Pam almost asks Pug if he knows Rhoda is being seen around Washington with the Army man, Harrison, but cannot bring herself to ask the question. Pug seems at a loss as to what he wants, faced again with the decision.





# Chapters 67 through 70

## Chapters 67 through 70 Summary

Berel Jastrow is captured by a group of partisans. A Jewish woman there, Bronka Ginsberg, understands Berel's Yiddish and he tells her of his escape and of the two rolls of film he carries. Bronka was originally captured by the partisan leader but has since become a trusted advisor, working as liaison between the partisans and her own people. At her advice, Berel is taken on to her village where he is fed, allowed to sleep and recover for a week. He learns his son is alive and a member of the partisans and his daughter-in-law is being hidden in a rural area. His film is developed to reveal documents of torture and an inventory of confiscated goods as well as details of experiments on sets of twins and death records indicating hundreds of "heart attacks" on a single day. Camp leaders agree to take Berel on to Prague.

Berel Jastrow travels with forged papers as Reinhold Henkle, a German construction worker. Working from the details he has memorized, he stops at a bookstore and asks for a particular book. When it is provided, he thumbs through and takes an address written on the front cover. He then goes to the address and finds a dentist. Pleading a bad abscess, he waits for an hour until the dentist sees him. He says simply he has come from Oswiecim and confirms he has films. That evening, dining with the dentist and his wife, he learns that Aaron Jastrow, his cousin, is in Theresienstadt.

Theresienstadt is merely a holding place for Jews headed to the concentration and death camps to the East, but they have a purpose. The Germans—while absolutely planning to kill every Jew in Germany and then in the world—realize there are those with sympathies toward their fellow man who will not stand by and permit the slaughter. With this in mind, they created Theresienstadt. The town is a complete hoax and the arriving Jews are asked to fill out paperwork indicating the type of accommodations they prefer and to create a list of all valuables. They are then put to work and paid with money created by the Theresienstadt bank, complete with elaborate records of work details, current bank account standings and financial obligations. None of it is real but it withstands the cursory look of the German Red Cross officials who are not overly concerned to begin with. The problem for Theresienstadt occurs when neutral Red Cross officials demand a chance for inspection.

That demand prompts a "beautification" project and provides hope for Natalie. Daily, Natalie works in a factory but takes a turn at the toddlers' home so she can see Louis more than the few minutes allotted for visitation. She notes the children get the best food but many of them sicken and die on the less-than-adequate rations. She puts it down to a combination of things, including the joining of the stout Jastrows and Henrys, that allows Louis to thrive. He continues to grow and masters all the things he is taught without seeming to try.



Natalie and Aaron are under some sort of protection, though they are not sure what that is until a later meeting with an SS official. They are afforded a small room to share while others are crammed into crowded conditions. Aaron works in a library and his food is brought to him, though he eats little. After a puppet performance one night, Natalie arrives at their shared room to find a grey dress, hose and shoes waiting for her. She discovers she and Aaron are to have an audience with a top SS official though Aaron has been assured it is not for bad reason.

Byron gets a letter from Natalie saying they are at Theresienstadt, that she, Aaron and Louis are all well and the food packages sent by way of the Red Cross are welcome. Byron talks to Leslie Slope who says he has come to the conclusion he can do nothing for the Jews and Byron should forget his wife and go fight the war.

They are in Japanese waters when they sink their first two Japanese ships. Aster has his sights on two additional ships but it is late and both are taking evasive action. They follow through the night, expecting to catch up, but radar fails and they are down to tracking by sight. The next day, Aster makes the risky decision to follow topside so that the submarine can make better time. They do so despite Byron's concern they could be spotted—which finally happens just as they begin closing in on their target. In a rain of bullets and bombs from aircraft, those topside of the submarine run for the hatch. Aster and a crewman are both hit and Aster yells for Byron to take the sub down. After a hesitation and with Aster's voice growing weaker but still demanding that he cannot make it, Byron gives the order to dive, slamming the hatch and leaving Aster outside.

## Chapters 67 through 70 Analysis

Berel relates the story of his escape from the Germans. After Mutterperl's rampage, he and the other men on his work detail are chained together. Every fourth man—selected completely at is hanged. The rest work under increased security until the day a thunderstorm strikes just at sundown when the pyres of human corpses have been set on fire. The guards are pushed backwards by the smoke. The prisoners, armed with makeshift lock-picking equipment taken from the bodies, free themselves and run for a nearby river. Berel says he saw two men who made it to the opposite shore but does not know how many more survived.

The interesting thing about Theresienstadt is the depth of the hoax. There are storefronts with items displayed, but all those are taken from Jews headed to the concentration camps and none are for sale. There are operas and plays put on by any of the many talented people being held at Theresienstadt. The Germans even allow the Jews to set up their own government which has no authority but does control those aspects of life the Germans have no interest in.

Natalie and others in the camp spend their days at work and their evenings finding ways to bring culture and education into the camp. It seems somewhat futile and a waste of energy, but Natalie notes there is simply nothing else to do but sit and worry, which accomplishes nothing. Instead, those left put on plays, operas and puppet shows. There



is forever a performance being decimated by the transport of the participants to the east. It is interesting to note that a puppet show Natalie works with is a parody on the German war—a frosty-nosed king orders all the Eskimos killed, then demands more Eskimos be brought in to be killed as well. The show is wildly popular, even with the SS officers.

Aster seems to be only confident and happy when he is sinking ships and killing the enemy. On a "dry run" with no hits, he is down and demands a tight schedule for returning to sea, which prompts several transfer requests, some sudden illnesses and even some AWOLs. Aster's mood is so bad when he arrives at Honolulu that he argues with Janice. Aster does not see any reason to keep their relationship from Byron but Janice continues to insist. She is also spending time with Byron over lunches and both seem to be thinking of what could happen if Natalie does not return.



# Chapters 71 through 76

## Chapters 71 through 76 Summary

Meanwhile, Pug is moved from Moscow to Iran where he checks on several details before the arrival of President Roosevelt then works to be certain US supplies are being utilized. He submits a report to Roosevelt and then meets Pam's fiancé. Pug asks where Pam is and discovers she is in town.

Aaron writes of the encounter with the SS official. Aaron says everything he has written and all they have encountered before this was child's play. He, Natalie and Louis all go to the office of the SS officer, Eichmann. He tells them Warner Beck intended them to be turned over to the Italian secret police. He says that he intervened. Another SS official named Burger then asks Aaron to head up the Department of Cultural Affairs. Aaron and Natalie are already receiving many of the privileges that comes with such a position and Aaron, citing poor health and his lack of musical knowledge, asks if he might decline. Natalie is taken from the room and Aaron is beaten and threatened. He is then photographed and interviewed by a newspaper reporter.

Aaron's maltreatment by the Germans has shocked him out of his apathy. Suddenly, he knows for a fact that the mass murders and all the other horror tales are true. He says it is a simple matter of the human condition that one cannot fully understand another's suffering. With this mistreatment, he arms himself with all the outward appearances of Jewishness. He says he is ready to take a stand as a Jew as he was once ready to leave it behind. Aaron also learns Berel is alive and working on the underground in Prague. He receives word and is thankful, but knows Berel cannot help them in Theresienstadt.

Pug wants desperately to catch up with Pam but is sick and does not manage it. Then he receives an invitation to dinner at an Iranian dignitary's home and Pam greets him. They dine but Pug is feverish and Pam urges him to go rest. She walks him out and he asks her not to get married. He then asks if she saw Rhoda while she was in Washington and whether she was with an Army man. Pam hesitates and finally says that she did but that Rhoda's actions were above board. Back among the Americans, Pug talks to a friend of Harrison Peters and asks what he says about Rhoda. The man admits Peters has taken Rhoda out dancing and talks in flowery terms about her, but says she is devoted to her husband and completely unattainable.

Pug becomes more ill and is put in the hospital, meaning Pam leaves the country before she can see him. She writes him a letter, urging him to go to Washington and "have it out" with Rhoda. She now says she has seen Rhoda with the Army officer several times but believes it to be innocent. She then indicates that she will likely be married before they communicate again and she will always wish him the best. Pug meets soon with one of his commanders and requests he be moved to Washington to oversee the production of landing craft rather than be given the new ship command due to him.



Life continues for Natalie and Aaron at Theresienstadt after Aaron's selection as a Jewish official. Then the camp gets a new director and the Jewish officials are called to a meeting. When the director, Karl Rahm, says the camp is to be beautified, he talks about the superficial aspects but does not mention the poor food and living conditions. He then calls for suggestions and Aaron, fearing the long silence will enrage the new commander, ventures to say that the music department could use paper. He begins with the obligatory, "I am Jewish filth," and Rahm says those types of statements are no longer to be used. He grants the paper and some musical instruments to be taken from the warehouses of items confiscated from Jews, along with several other innocuous requests. After the meeting, the Jews are told that because of overcrowding, five thousand will be shipped out. Natalie's friend Udam and his daughter who often plays with Louis are among those called.

Aaron offers a lecture that evening and Natalie and Udam are to provide a puppet show afterward, but they realize the audience is in no mood for jokes and forego the puppets. Instead, Udam and Aaron sing and dance to a death song. As the performance ends, Aaron recognizes Berel.

## Chapters 71 through 76 Analysis

Eichmann says he agrees with Hitler's policies but believes they should be carried out as humanely as possible—therefore Natalie and Aaron were moved to Theresienstadt instead. However, when Aaron declines the position offered, he watches calmly as the old man is kicked and forced to say, "I am an old bag of filthy Jewish shit." When Aaron realizes his face and name are being put in the public by way of the media, he knows any chance of rescue is gone. He says their location will obviously be known then and that means the Germans do not intend to give them over to the US, no matter what.

It seems Pug suddenly wants Pam but it is important to remember he is feverishly ill. When he asks her not to marry, she says she "most certainly will." Pam seems to realize Pug is ill and that it is likely the fever talking and she urges him to return to his wife and work things out. It is likely she simply needs some stability herself and knows she is not going to ever get it from Pug.

Natalie does not know why Aaron changes his mind about accepting the position at Theresienstadt but fears it is because he craves comforts. They now have a small suite to share and a bath. Aaron does not tell her because he realizes she now lives in a state of near-panic all the time. He knows their only hope for survival is a military rescue. He notes that he does not fear death for himself but does for Natalie.

Aaron gives a lecture on the Iliad, but transgresses into the Biblical story of Job. He points out that Job, through all the trials, does not admit he has done anything wrong even though his friends continue to insist he must have sinned in some way. They believe they only need to figure out how. Job stands firm and finally God says that Job has done nothing wrong. Aaron seems to compare the story to the current situation of the Jewish people and to give them hope that they too have done nothing to deserve



their punishment and impending fate. He goes so far as to say that God allowed Satan to provoke him into testing Job's faith. Then Aaron says Job was vastly rewarded, but points out that he still had the heartache of having lost ten children to death.



# Chapters 77 through 81

## Chapters 77 through 81 Summary

Pug writes a long letter to Pamela. He tells her he and Rhoda have talked and he asked what would make her happy. She says she wants a divorce and Pug agrees. He then asks Pam to marry him, if she has not already married Duncan. He says that if it is too late, he hopes she will take the letter as a "farewell compliment" to their love. Pam gets the letter some six weeks later after Duncan has gone to fight and while there is still a search for him underway. She does not reply until Duncan is found but he is terribly ill and she spends hours each day at his bedside. She finally writes back to Pug, telling him she cannot jilt Duncan in his time of need, even though their love is nothing like what she and Pug have.

Aaron goes over the details of the "beautification" of Theresienstadt, which is elaborate. The goal is to trick the visiting Red Cross officials into thinking it is truly a paradise. There are buildings going up to simulate classrooms, music halls, dining area and more. Musicians are practicing and will "happen to be" in rehearsal on the day of the visit. Children are being fed so that they will appear happy and healthy on the day of the visit. There are drills to prepare members of the community to shop at the stores, purchase items and even have coffee and cake at cafes. With the exception of the food consumed on the spot, all items bought must be returned after the visitors are gone. Aaron notes it is a huge conspiracy and he wonders at the elaborate planning and the need for it. He writes that thousands of Jews have simply vanished and the world will someday want to know what happened to them.

Natalie becomes part of a Zionist underground movement and they plan a way to gain the attention of the Red Cross visitors. Each time any of them is asked a question, they plan to say, "Oh yes, it is all very, very new. And there is much more to see." They hope the repetition will prompt the Red Cross visitors to push past the outlined areas into the overcrowding, starving desolation of the remainder of the camp. While Aaron is worried, he is glad to see a spark in her eyes as she plans.

Pug is arguing with the Army over a particular shipment of pipe fittings that both need when he comes in contact with Harrison. They visit an Army installation where Sime Anderson is working on the atomic bomb, though each section of the manufacturing phase is separated from others in order that none know the full extent of their work. Pug and Harrison work out the details to trade the couplings Pug needs for the Navy's help on the atomic bomb production. Sime asks Madeline to marry him and she accepts, even knowing he is to be stationed in the United States desert working on the bomb.

Aaron knows there are to be seven thousand, five hundred Jews transported from Theresienstadt in an effort to alleviate the overcrowding before the Red Cross visit. Natalie and Louis are among those summoned for transport because of Natalie's involvement with the Zionists. Aaron cuts the stitching on his shoes and removes some





diamonds. He takes them to the camp commander as a bribe. Fearing Natalie is still not to be freed, he threatens to commit suicide rather than face the Red Cross. He notes that his picture has been plastered on the news and the Red Cross will be interested in meeting him. He says they can torture him but he will not participate unless Natalie is freed. He guarantees she will not do anything else troublesome.

Natalie is soon summoned to the SS office where she is beaten and threatened. They tell her that if she does anything to jeopardize the Red Cross visit, they will kill Louis. She promises she will do whatever they say. Berel sends word that he will try to get Louis out.

## Chapters 77 through 81 Analysis

Pam does say that the letter from Pug and the action it portrays does not seem real. In her letter, she writes she does not think Rhoda yet has her man nailed down and that Pug will always return at her request. She also says she believes his return to Rhoda is the correct thing. She advises him to look around for an "American beauty who will make you happy." It is interesting Rhoda does not answer Pug's question of what she wants until she is certain Harrison will marry her, and both Pug and Harrison accept that. In fact, Pug notes Rhoda is to talk to their lawyer about the divorce and that she is also to meet with Harrison's lawyer.

Aaron says Hitler is the Antichrist Nietzsche refers to and predicts Christianity will fall because of Hitler's deeds. However, he later writes he believes the hatred of the Jews must have been brewing for ages, otherwise the Germans would have objected to Hitler's plan.

Berel has a way to get Louis out of the camp but Natalie refuses to allow it. She feels they are above transport and that they must stay together. Berel argues that the youngsters are the future of the Jews and must be protected. Aaron agrees but Natalie stands firm. She is even more hopeful once the Red Cross visit nears.

Pug enters their home one evening and hears Rhoda crying as he passes the door to her room. They meet in the den for drinks and she confides Harrison has received letters outlining her affair with Kirby. She says he has been her only indiscretion which hurts Pug somewhat since she has never before admitted it. Then she says he should not be like that because he must have known and Pug realizes she is talking to him as if they were no longer important to each other. Harrison does ask Pug about Kirby and Pug denies there is anything there. Rhoda believes Harrison's illusions of her are ruined and she invites Pug back to her bedroom but he declines.

Natalie is the last of several to be removed from the line of those being transported but she is not certain until the next day when the train leaves that she and Louis are actually to be spared. She then is weak with relief and tells Aaron that they must immediately get word to Berel to get Louis out. It takes this close call for Natalie to realize the true danger they are in, and that there is no real protection or safety for anyone. In a few



days, she is summoned to an SS officer and is told to bring Louis, which prompts another round of terror.



# Chapters 82 through 88

## Chapters 82 through 88 Summary

Roon writes about Normandy and other battles. He says that, had Hitler agreed to end the war, the Germans would have been forced to "kneel down" but would have avoided a series of bombing. He notes that Hitler "degenerates" into a monster, but Victor Henry asserts Hitler was always a monster. The remainder of his writing in this section is dedicated to his views on the war, Hitler and Hitler's determination to blame someone else for the army's failures.

Pam runs into Leslie Slote in England and Slote says Pug is also in England. She tracks down Pug and invites him to dinner with herself and Duncan. Pug agrees though he determines he will not ask Pam to marry him again, giving her no second chance to reject him. Pug has been promoted to admiral and he tells Pam the news—that Byron has his gold star, Madeline and Sime are married and Rhoda is currently getting a divorce. Pug then confides that he is worried about Rhoda because he thinks Harrison is simply going through with the marriage as a matter of honor even though he got the letters regarding Rhoda's affair while married to Pug.

Meanwhile, Leslie Slote is dropped into France on the night before D-Day. The Rhodes Scholar has kept himself physically fit and trained for this mission, though it seems like a dream up to the point of the drop. Now he is in enemy territory, alive and planning to stay that way. Pam will later learn that there is an informant in the group and Slote is feared dead.

On June 22, 1944, there is a "dress rehearsal" of the Red Cross visit. Aaron writes that everyone plays their part to perfection but it is painful in many ways. He notes that messenger boys run ahead of those pretending to be the visitors, prompting the "actors" to begin their parts. Once the visitors pass, the people return to their role as prisoners and wait for the "next cue." The visit goes off as planned and the Red Cross visitors neither cause nor see anything not on the carefully rehearsed itinerary. The Red Cross worker who turns in a glowing report of Theresienstadt later testifies he knew it was a sham but did not want to make things worse for the Danish Jews. He says accusing the Germans of crimes he could not prove would only have created problems for the Jews in the camps. Some would ask how things could possibly have been worse.

Roon writes about the attempt on Hitler's life that July. He says he had been approached about an assassination to end the war, but squelched the inquiry. He notes some were on the brink of finding a way to get around Hitler to end the war, but the attempt on his life called forward their loyalty and many rallied around Hitler as they had not done in some time. Roon writes that Hitler required a film to be made of the executions of officers involved and that he watched, giggling as if it were a comedy. Roon says he was unable to respect Hitler after that. Pug writes he believes Roon felt guilty for staying out of the assassination attempt. He later writes about the lack of



ammunition and fuel. As Pug Henry puts it, "Fortune favors the bold, but not when they are out of gas and bullets."

The Germans are so pleased with the Red Cross visit to Theresienstadt that they plan a movie to quell the rumors of death camps. With the news of the war indicating the Germans are in trouble, Aaron wonders if the cameras might film the American tanks plunging into the camp. Suddenly, Aaron is ordered to finish the film and he knows it is because the Soviets discovered one of the concentration camps, brought in reporters and the German secret is now public.

Aaron writes that more transports are ordered and the Germans are saying the need for labor at a particular camp is prompting it. He says the Jews are expecting one of two actions from the Germans. They will either begin to soften in an effort to save themselves at the end of the war, or they will frantically hurry to complete their killing of as many Jews as possible. Natalie eats everything she can, even though it is horrible food. She says that if she is shipped to a labor camp, she means to survive. Aaron also notes his will to survive but for a different reason—he says he wants to tell the story.

Pug gets a message that the commander of the submarine the Barracuda is asking permission to come aboard his ship. The two vessels are at sea and Pug is surprised, but grants permission. It turns out the commander is Byron and he wants to talk to his father about his parents' divorce. When he sees the picture of Pam on Pug's desk, Byron is immediately angry. He asks his father if their divorce was because of Pam and Pug tells Byron that the divorce was a simple fact of war. Byron cannot get past the images of his father having sex with a woman who had "helled around" with Byron's wife, Natalie. Byron abruptly changes the subject to ask his father's advice about his command of the sub. He says he does not feel he is fit for duty and Pug recommends that duty might help him get at least momentarily past his worry over Natalie, but he cannot tell him what to do. Byron says he does not know why not because Pug has always tried to run his life. He then apologizes, saying this too could be a sign of his inability to withstand the stress of the command. They part on bad terms.

A Japanese commander named Kurita is leading his fleet when they encounter the Americans, including Byron in a sub and Pug on a ship. Kurita sees, within minutes of their encounter, two of his ten ships go down in a blaze while a third is damaged. He himself has to jump and swim for his life and is picked up by another of the fleet. Promised air support does not arrive but Kurita ploughs onward. Pug Henry watches the unfolding battle carefully. While he is a very junior officer on October 24, 1944, in the current fleet, he wants to be prepared if the battle thrusts command on his shoulders.

## Chapters 82 through 88 Analysis

Pam asks why Pug did not write after her refusal and he says he did, but he tore up the letters because he did not know what to say. She is elated at this news. Pam then finally spells it out for Pug, telling him she loves him and asking if he will have her. He asks what has changed and she says it was difficult to believe Rhoda would actually be out



of Pug's life and it was all the more difficult with an ocean between them. She says she will have to tell Duncan right away and predicts he will be hurt, but not surprised.

The Red Cross is demanding, in addition to the general visit, to see some four hundred and fifty Danish Jews who were not able to escape as their fellow countrymen had. In fact, the Danish government knew ahead of time that the Jews were being rounded up and secreted the majority of its Jewish population into nearby Sweden. Those Jews are to be at the spotlight of the Red Cross visit.

Aaron writes about Louis. They have managed to get him out of the camp though at a price of emotional upheaval for Aaron and Natalie. He was taken to the hospital and Natalie received word that he died of typhus. She was then contacted and offered his ashes "at a price." She paid and Aaron notes that, for all they know, the little urn in Natalie's bedroom really does contain Louis's ashes, though they hope not. Natalie goes through all the motions—saying prayers, lighting memory candles and mourning. The camp director says only that she will have to get some other child to play Louis's part in the upcoming move. At one point, Natalie demands to see the doctor who wrote Louis's death certificate but is turned away. In her anguish to know the child is alright, she does not seem to consider she might be putting others in danger and endangering the option of getting other children out. Her grief continues until she receives a photo of Louis with Berel.

Pug receives two letters, one from Pam and one from Rhoda. Rhoda says only that she and Harrison want to buy the house Rhoda and Pug shared. She asks him to set a selling price and Pug writes a short reply for the next outgoing mail pickup. Pam writes that Duncan has died and she feels guilty for having jilted him just before his death, wondering if her presence might have made a difference. She says Phillip Rule has been killed and she hears Leslie Slote may also be dead. She says she wants only to live long enough to be happy with Pug.



# Chapters 89 through 93

## Chapters 89 through 93 Summary

As the battle in Pug's life is heating up, Aaron writes that he and Natalie have their deportation orders and there is no appeal possible. As they prepare, Aaron writes a final entry in his journal. He has concealed the pages, though he does not write where. He says he has also written in code so the casual observer will not be able to decipher the writing. He now says he is afraid of dying but he treasures his time in the current camp, Theresienstadt because it was here he found himself and his God. He talks of the time spent teaching young boys and even though he does not know if they live, he knows that the words of the Talmud were on their lips and in their hearts. Natalie, though she still longs for Louis, seems content to allow herself to be transported. Aaron says he believes there are three things a Jew must not do, and kill is one of them. Natalie asks about the other two and Aaron says the worship of false gods and forbidden sex are also unacceptable. He notes she simply smiles as she heads off to work in the factory.

Hasley makes decisions about the placement of ships that Pug does not agree with, but he—like the others—follows orders. Finally, Hasley asks Pug if they two of them should chase "those monkeys" and engage in a full-fledged battle. After hour upon hour of inconsistencies and a lack of orders to "form battle lines," Pug says he is ready. He notes it may have come late, but at last Hasley is giving the order he hoped for.

Roon writes of the battle that became known as the Battle of the Bulge. He begins by saying war is merely enforced politics and battles seldom rise above their political origins. He says the military attack on the Philippines was nothing more than MacArthur's vanity at play. He notes there were mistakes though few were admitted and poor communications played a serious role in the entire affair.

Immediately, Natalie and Aaron are separated with Aaron in the passenger car and Natalie in a cattle car. Aaron asks to be allowed to remain with Natalie but is refused. It is ironic that the transport is the last to roll out of Theresienstadt and it only goes because no one stops it. The train car is horrible. Some old people are not able to keep from soiling themselves and there are scraps of food tossed into the car by the soldiers. The old and sick begin to die but there is no where to put their bodies so they remain where they are. Even in this, there are some good people. One nurse works to comfort those she can and elicits help with those who have fouled themselves. A man takes on the duty of keeping order and distributing food. At one stop, a farmer tosses in a large bag of apples to the Jewish people. Natalie wonders who the man was who knew there were Jews on the train and offered the kindness.

Aaron is bothered by his own surroundings. He has once-daily access to a bathroom and is fed a barely sustaining meal twice a day. He and the others in his position know they have it better than the others. Aaron suspects he and the others held in his car are kept separate so they cannot start any uprisings. As is the case with Natalie, Aaron and



his fellow travelers hold to hope. At one point, Aaron is asked his opinion on the war and he likens Hitler to Fredrick the Great. Though he is disgusted with himself, he is given a roll and a sausage which he shares with the others. Later, the process repeats itself and he shares another sausage.

Those of Natalie's car are forced out at the end of the trip and she is viciously hit as she hesitates to jump. Aaron tries to gain sight of her but is never certain that he does see her. He, along with the men of his car, are told to go to the disinfecting showers. Aaron knows what that means as does one of his traveling companions who is brutally hit in the face when he objects. Aaron and the others mildly walk to the dressing room, disrobe and then walk into the gas chamber. Aaron is panicked by the crowd and when the lights go out, someone shouts what everyone knows—that they are being "gassed." Aaron actually falls and is smothered by others who fall on top of him. He dies quickly. His body is taken to the morgue where his gold-filled teeth are removed. He is cremated and his ashes, along with those of the others, are thrown into a nearby river.

## Chapters 89 through 93 Analysis

Natalie and Aaron are being transported because Aaron refuses to participate in the decisions of who is to be transported. He offers to change his mind for Natalie's sake but she says no. He reminds her the transports will continue no matter what, but she says it is enough to know Aaron is not helping make those decisions.

It is interesting to note Natalie hears some saying that the camp they are bound for is not so bad. They cling to hope no matter what they have heard. Natalie has heard the truth from Berel but she believes she will survive. She thinks she might be able to flash her American passport, which she somehow has managed to hang onto. She considers she will flirt or prostitute herself if need be. She hopes some SS officer will take her under his wing in an effort to have her as a character witness once the Germans lose the war. Even though Natalie is better informed than many, she holds to hope. It is also interesting to note many of the Germans hold to the hope that their wonderful leader—Hitler—will still manage a victory for Germany.

Aaron has swallowed several diamonds that he intends to give to Natalie on the train so she might have them to offer as a bribe in the right situation. What Aaron does not realize is that the Germans would simply have taken the diamonds without honoring any deal anyway. He does not give them to her because they are so abruptly separated. The writer notes that the diamonds were not found. Aaron may not have gotten to use the stones, but the Germans did not get them either.



# Chapters 94 through 98

## Chapters 94 through 98 Summary

Byron and the members of the Barracuda have their first sinking under his command. Then they are hit themselves by depth charges and go into an uncontrolled dive. By the time it has stopped, the hull has suffered pressure damage too severe for repair. On the surface, another ship almost rams them but Byron pulls around the front and faces the ship so that they almost side-swipe each other. The ship is also dead in the water after the encounter and the Barracuda escapes with no loss of life. Byron is sent to San Francisco for repairs, tests a new gadget while there for detecting mine fields and is then reassigned to the Pacific.

Pug writes to Pam with instructions about moving into the Washington apartment that formerly belonged to Harrison. He tells her he knows she is looking for words of love and that she knows he is no good at that. He spends most of the letter in money details then on the war and politics, ending by apologizing for not talking more about how much he loves her.

In Washington, Rhoda has packed up Pug's things and she arrives with the moving van. She insists on helping Pam unpack, which Pam at first considers a good idea but then notes Rhoda's "proprietary" manner and says she can finish. Rhoda insists and as they unpack the final box, they hear the news that Roosevelt has died.

Roon recounts there was cheering from the German officers when they learned of Roosevelt's death. The Germans consider his death a victory and shout that the "mad dog has croaked." Roon continues to tout Hitler's failing sanity. He orders four "fine officers" shot during a tantrum—one of them Roon's brother-in-law. He writes that his loyalty is becoming "quite a burden." Days later, Hitler throws another screaming fit and decides on suicide. In his last encounter with Roon, Hitler blames the generals for the lost war and Roon briefly wonders if he has been summoned only to be executed, but he is not. Roon calls Hitler's death the choice of a "hysterical coward," and blames him for leaving the nation to face the disaster of ending the war. Pug notes that in other writings about Hitler, Roon is positive about the leader until the turning point of the war. He suggests Roon calls Hitler a crazed maniac only after Hitler begins losing the war.

Pug meets Truman for the first time since taking office and accepts the position as Naval Aide. Back at their apartment, he receives a phone call from Rhoda indicating the Red Cross has news that Natalie has been hospitalized for typhus and malnutrition. Byron is wild with worry because there is no mention of Louis. He figures that if Natalie is suffering, the conditions would have been worse for the child. He endures the weeks of submarine patrols and immediately asks for relief upon reaching Pearl Harbor. He is denied but is granted a transfer to Germany to inspect some new technology there.





Byron receives a letter from his father containing news of Natalie, that she is alive and there is no news yet of Louis. There is a letter from Natalie saying only briefly that she loves him and that Louis was alive several months after being taken from the camp. Next there is a letter from Avram Rabinovitz, the man who helped Natalie and Aaron in their early escape attempts. Avram details Natalie's removal from Auschwitz in a train car. He says many Jews who had not yet been killed were simply put on trains or forced to march with no real destination in mind. It was the final attempt of the Germans to do something with the remaining Jews, but they had no plan. Many died. Natalie somehow pulled herself out of the railroad car and was lying on the tracks when she was found. Avram was part of the rescue team and when Natalie began speaking English, he was called. Avram urges Byron to write to Natalie, and to be positive about their chances of finding Louis. He says that many of the farms in the area where Louis was have been burned and locating the child will take time.

Byron also receives a copy of the narrative in which Natalie outlines her captivity, including her stay in Auschwitz. The details are rambling as she simply recalls what she could of her time in the camp. She says she was put to work in a warehouse where she disassembled toys in search of valuables. She was then to reassemble them and one day she took apart an old, battered teddy bear that would not hold up to being put back together. She was beaten for "destroying" the property.

## Chapters 94 through 98 Analysis

When Rhoda learns of Roosevelt's death, she breaks down. She holds Warren's photo album and cries that "It's the end." There is no real explanation for the drama other than that she knew Roosevelt personally and his control of the war may have felt like Rhoda's last link with her son's death.

Pug returns to the car after the visit with Truman and he and Pam drive away. He holds his news for several minutes before telling her that he is the President's Naval Aide. He notes that Rhoda would have asked before he had the chance to tell.

Byron gets a letter from Madeline with many details about their parents' divorce that Byron has not yet heard. Madeline does not hold back anything she knows, telling him Rhoda was drinking one night and spilled it all to Madeline. She says Rhoda and Kirby had an affair and Pug forgave the trespass, but Rhoda could not stand the fact that Pug knew of her transgression. Madeline then says that she does not believe Pug had an affair with Pam before Pug's divorce, but she would not have blamed him if he had. Madeline also writes that Pug worships Byron and would have done anything to retain his love and trust—anything except say something bad about their mother. Byron does not really say anything about Madeline's letter, but it seems he might have at least heard what she was saying.

Natalie says she does not know what happened to Aaron but that she is certain he was killed as only the strong men who could work were spared. She says that as she worked with the toys, she was at first aware that each had belonged to a child now dead. After





awhile, she and the others at the job become numb. She says it was dangerous to keep what was found but that some did so they could buy food. She talks of the movement of some pretty girls to be used as prostitutes. She says she was once pretty but she had lost so much weight she did not need to worry about that. Natalie gives other details—how it felt to have her head shaved and what it was like to be tattooed.



# Chapter 99

## Chapter 99 Summary

Sime Anderson is called out for a testing of the new super weapon. There is some talk, not quite persiflage, that the explosion will set off some reaction that will disintegrate the entire world. There is also some concern that there will be no explosion but a mere "fizzle." There is a magnificent explosion and one scientist says, "That's the end of the war."

Byron, in a plane miles away, sees the light and thinks it is an electrical storm. He cannot secure a plane seat on his own and catches a ride with Pug to Germany. He sees Avram first who tells him he searched Prague—in the area Louis was last known to be living—to no avail. Byron and Natalie talk in the hospital garden and Natalie first holds Byron at arm's length, talking banalities. Avram warns him not to push but Byron finally says he loves her and it seems to break the ice somewhat. He notes she is nothing but bones and she tells him she has horrible nightmares. Byron says he is going to look for Louis and she begs him to find their son.

As he begins the search, Byron sees just how difficult it will be. He has a list of some seventy four-year-olds who match at least some part of the description and the children are scattered around Europe. He says it will take years to check on them all. He then tells Avram he is going to Prague to begin from the beginning. Though Avram already searched there, he encourages Byron to go—especially once he finds out Pug is in Germany and is the President's Naval Aide. On the day the Americans bomb Hiroshima, Byron finds Louis. He sends word to Natalie by way of Avram.

Louis has been marked "psychologically disabled" because he does not talk. The paperwork indicates he was found in a rural area of Prague with bodies nearby. When Byron hands him off to Natalie, she begins to sing a song he heard many times. He hesitantly offers a few words of his own.

The author writes that in an unmarked grave near Prague, "Berel Jastrow's bones lie unmarked" like so many others. He notes that Berel Jastrow was not real but the events of this book were. He says the story is real for the "more than fifty million real dead in the world's greatest catastrophe." Those need not have died in vain if they are remembered and if their deaths lead the world to a time of peace.

## Chapter 99 Analysis

When Byron lands, he hugs Pam and Pug feels he has personally won a war. He has lunch with his mother and later says he thinks she is drinking too much. Pug agrees though he says Rhoda was nervous about her meeting with Byron. Byron also sees Janice and they are friendly but polite. She is working on her degree and has a job "on the hill."

Byron and Natalie are not yet settled on where they will be but Byron still has duty time in Germany. Avram points out Natalie will never go to Germany because the people are murderers. Byron says he is also a murderer.



# Characters

## Victor Henry (Pug)

Pug is a Naval officer who has devoted his career to the military. He is a strong man, dedicated to duty and honorable. At the beginning of this book, he is married to Rhoda who is unhappy at their long separation. She has asked Pug for a divorce which greatly disturbs him despite the fact that others around him are having the same difficulty. Rhoda briefly changes her mind but they do eventually divorce. When Pug's youngest son, Byron, asks why, Pug will not say anything against his ex-wife—a fact Pug's daughter later notes.

Pug is father of three. The oldest, Warren, is a fighter pilot who is killed in the battle at Midway off the Hawaiian coast. When Warren dies, Pug notes he was also at the battle but never fired a shot. The fact that his son was fighting and sacrificing seems to bother Pug more because he himself was not involved in the actual fighting. Pug is in several heated battles including one that costs him his ship, the Northampton. Returning to port after the sinking of that ship, Pug fully expects to be reprimanded. Instead, he is offered a promotion. Before accepting, he is called to Washington, D.C., where he gives in to the urging of President Roosevelt to accept a brief assignment in Moscow and then oversee production of landing craft. Though Pug wants another sea command or a position on the command staff in Hawaii, he accepts the duty Roosevelt assigns.

Pug seems to have communication problems with his younger son, Byron, who is serving on a submarine early in the book and then accepts a command position. Pug and Byron meet briefly after Pug's divorce and Byron is angry Pug now plans to marry a woman who is much younger than he. It is Pug's daughter, Madeline, who tells Warren he is being impossibly old-fashioned about the situation.

Pug does marry Pam, the daughter of a war correspondent. The two have met by chance at several locations around the world and have fallen in love, though they never act on their feelings until their marriage.

## Byron Henry

Byron is the younger son of Pug and Rhoda Henry. He is married to Natalie Jastrow—a Jewess caught in Europe at the beginning of the war. They have one son, Louis, who is also caught in Europe. Byron is serving on a submarine when the United States enters the war. He is in and around where Pug and Warren are at various times, though he also fights many battles far from his family. In one of those, Byron is serving under his friend, Lady Aster. Aster, trying to make good time in the pursuit of a Japanese ship, is traveling on top of the water when they take on enemy fire. Aster is hit by a bullet and yells to Byron that he cannot make it inside. He commands Byron to take the submarine



down, which Byron does. There is a brief inquiry into Aster's death but Byron is cleared. He is soon given command of a submarine of his own, the Moray.

Byron asks his father what happened to cause the divorce and Pug will not blame Rhoda for it. Byron feels resentment toward Pam, believing she broke up his parents' marriage but his sister, Madeline, sets him straight. He eventually accepts Pam though he jokingly says he does not plan to call her, "mom."

Byron searches for Natalie and Louis in Europe as Jews are being rounded up and put into concentration camps and finally catches up with them. Natalie, fearing for Louis, refuses to travel with him because their papers are not in order. She believes they will be able to get out safely if they wait a few days and Byron is forced to leave without her. She is soon interred in a concentration camp though she arranges for Louis to get out. Byron returns to Natalie once she is removed from the camp and hospitalized and eventually finds Louis among a group of children believed to be orphans.

## **Pamela Tudsbury Henry**

Pam is the daughter of Alastair "Talky" Tudsbury, a British journalist. She is savvy and chic as she travels the world with her famous father. It is during those travels that she happens to meet Pug Henry. Pam and Pug are immediately attracted but the fact that he is married means he will not follow up on the attraction. After Rhoda asks for a divorce from Pug, Pug and Pam begin making tentative plans but Pug withdraws from her after Warren's death. Pam warns Rhoda she has a wonderful husband and she should go make him happy. When Rhoda and Pug are definitely divorcing, Pug asks Pam to marry him but she has become engaged to someone else and declines the offer. She later tells him it simply did not seem real because he was thousands of miles away and she fully expected Rhoda to again change her mind. When it is evident Pug is really free, Pam breaks off her own engagement and agrees to marry Pug.

Meanwhile, her father is killed by a land mine. Pam is actually supposed to be going with Talky on that trip but he insists she remain behind. The argument is their final exchange. Pam believes Talky had a premonition of his own death and wanted to protect Pam. Pam tries to take over his work as a correspondent, but finds she is simply not the writer he was. She says there is a difference between polishing up the articles he began and writing articles of her own.

Pam and Pug do marry and settle down in Washington.

## **Natalie Jastrow Henry**

Natalie is a Jew, married to Byron Henry and is the mother of Louis. She is traveling Europe with her uncle, Aaron Jastrow, a famous American writer, when the war breaks out. As Jews, they are suddenly without legal transportation and make numerous efforts to return to America. Natalie is strong and continues to be so after she, Aaron and Louis are detained several times for various reasons. Finally, they end up in a concentration



camp known as Theresienstadt. The camp is a giant hoax, meant to show those outside Nazi Germany that the Jews were not being mistreated. In actuality, food was scarce, prisoners were grossly mistreated and death a daily occurrence. It is here that Natalie allies herself with some Zionists who plan to attempt to signal visiting Red Cross officials of the deplorable conditions. Before the Red Cross visit, all the Zionists except Natalie are transported to other camps to the east, generally accepted to be death camps. Natalie is told her son will be killed unless she cooperates and she agrees.

Soon after, Natalie agrees for Louis to be taken to a hospital where a doctor fakes his death record and has him taken to a nearby family for safety. She does not see him again until the end of the war, but knows he would have been killed with thousands of other Jewish children from her camp had she not sent him away. As Natalie is being shipped to another concentration camp known as a death camp, she vows to live—no matter what it takes. She does survive, though barely. When she again meets Byron, she is filled with guilt that she did not get out with Louis when there was an opportunity.

## **Aaron Jastrow**

Aaron is Natalie's uncle and author of "A Jew's Jesus." He is wealthy and has turned away from the Jewish faith, though he was born a Jew. He actually became a Catholic but never worshipped in that faith either. Aaron was certain that the American citizenship and the fact he had converted to Catholicism would protect him from persecution as other Jews were being persecuted, but the time comes when Aaron is just as vulnerable as other Jews. Once Aaron is being mistreated himself at Theresienstadt, he admits the reason he had not really understood the suffering of the Jews was that he himself had not yet been persecuted. He says it is human nature to understand your own suffering best.

Aaron is pushed to the limits of what he believes to be right at Theresienstadt. When he is asked to join a committee that will help determine which Jews are shipped to the extermination camps, Aaron refuses. Natalie agrees with his decision even though they know it will likely mean their own transport. It is during this time that Aaron again finds his faith and begins practicing the religious rites of Jewish law. When he is shipped on to the concentration camp known as Auschwitz, he knows he is soon to be killed but walks with the others into the building to die. He actually dies before the gas kills him, smothered by the vast number of bodies that fall on him.

## **Warren Henry**

Warren is the oldest son of Pug and Rhoda Henry, husband of Janice and father to one son, Victor. Warren is an all-American boy, good-looking and anxious to do his part in the war effort. Warren is a pilot and is flying against the Japanese after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Just before the battle at Midway, Warren picks up his Bible and reads a verse that indicates he should get his house in order, because he will not live. While Warren seems to put no faith in that passage, he has put his affairs in order—as will



become evident after his death in a crash at the battle of Midway. He arranges for his wife and son financially and talks to his wife, pledging his love and renewed devotion. Warren and his fellow pilots are responsible for the sinking of several ships during the battle and Warren is flying in to drop a bomb when his plane is hit by anti-aircraft fire. He realizes he is going to die and his thoughts immediately rush to his father. He believes his father will be proud, and Pug is proud of Warren though it is some time before he can talk about his son.

## **Berel Jastrow**

Berel Jastrow is Aaron's cousin. Berel is not as fortunate as Aaron early on in the war and winds up at Auschwitz well before Aaron is interred. Berel, however, is strong and is not willing to give in to the German torment and torture without a fight. He manages to land on a working team headed by a man he knows named Sammy Mutterperl. It is Mutterperl who believes they have a chance to escape, though he goes mad before the time for escape arrives. Berel is put first on a building crew that is in charge of the first crematorium at Auschwitz. Later, he is assigned grave duty. His job is to pick up the corpses of the many Jews who were killed and buried in mass graves. All are then searched for valuables and put on giant pyres to be burned. He manages to escape and then works with the underground to help other Jews escape as well. It is Berel who tells Natalie and Aaron of the true conditions of the prison camps and the fate of those Jews being sent there. He urges Natalie to let him take Louis out of the Theresienstadt camp. She refuses until Louis's life is threatened. Berel arranges for a doctor to treat Louis for an imaginary illness, then fake his death certificate. Berel takes the child to a family in Prague. Berel dies in the woods near Prague.

## **Rhoda Henry**

Pug's wife and mother of Warren, Byron and Madeline. Rhoda has been a dutiful Navy wife for many years but is very lonely when Pug is away at war. She begins an affair and asks for a divorce but seems to change her mind. After Warren's death, she resolves to remain with Pug. Then Pamela Tudsbury tells her Pug is a desirable man, that she would take him if she could, and that Rhoda should go devote herself to making him happy. She pledges to do just that but meets an Army man who immediately holds her attention, though she is careful not to begin another affair. Once she is certain the man will marry her, she asks Pug again for a divorce and eventually settles with the man.

## **Alastair**

Pam's father and a British war correspondent. Talky is a well-respected journalist for the most part and is invited to visit many war sites and to interview many of the important war figures of the day. As he grows older, Pam takes on more of the duties of his writing and does some of her own, though she will later admit she does not have the flair for



writing Talky had. Talky was to travel to a war site with Pam but decided at the last moment to go without her. He was killed by a land mine and Pam believed it to be a premonition of his death that prompted the change.

## **Lady Aster**

A friend of Warren and the man who took over command of the submarine, The Devilfish, when Captain Branch Hoben fails to withstand the stress of battle. Aster is a daring captain but sometimes puts his men at risk. At one point he orders firing on Japanese soldiers who are unarmed and in the water as they tried to escape their sinking ship. Byron feels it is wrong, as do some others, but Aster is officially commended for the attack. He dies after being shot by enemy fire while on the deck of the submarine at the surface. His final command to Byron is that he cannot make it to the hatch and Byron is to order the sub to dive.





# Objects/Places

## Pearl Harbor

The famed port where the Japanese attack occurred and where Victor Henry reports to take over command of the U.S.S. Northampton.

## Stalag

A German prison camp that consists only of acres of open air, encased by barbed wire. There are no barracks, no order and scant food and water. The dead are simply piled up and burned. Berel Jastow is held for a period of time at this camp and it is here that he witnesses cannibalism among the prisoners.

## The Devilfish

The submarine that Byron serves on.

## Singapore

Where Pamela Tudsbury meets with Phillip Rule. Pam is appalled by the place and it is Phillip who says he has been told Singapore is a place of "drinks, Chinks and stinks."

## Sienna

The Italian town where Aaron Jastrow owns a home and where he and Natalie are detained as the Germans seek to exchange Americans for their own journalists being held in Brazil.

## Midway

An island off the coast of Hawaii. The American forces fear the Japanese will attempt to occupy Midway, putting the Japanese forces in position to attack Hawaii and the United States. The battle is an American success and both Pug and Warren are there.

## The Wansee Protocol

A report handed to Leslie Slote indicating Jews are being exterminated in large numbers by the Germans. Slote is unable to authenticate the report and his superiors, putting it down as a fake, refuse to act on it.



## **Follonica**

The seaside resort where Natalie, Aaron and Louis are staying when they disappear in an effort to escape.

## **Brenner's Park Hotel**

Where Aaron, Natalie and Louis stay once they are taken into Baden-Baden, Germany. They remain here until Aaron's illness prompts them to be sent to Paris where he undergoes surgery.

## **Theresienstadt**

The German prison camp where Aaron, Natalie and Louis end up. The place is idyllic, often referred to as a "spa" and "paradise ghetto." It is where the notable Jews and half-Jewish people wind up. The Red Cross confirms the "curious" existence of the village and there are pictures of Jews—all wearing yellow stars—casually sipping coffee at a café, rehearsing for a play or strolling through a park. It is actually a hoax with horrible conditions, and is a holding place for Jews bound for the death camps.

## **Oswiecim**

Another name for Auschwitz.

## **Prague**

Where Louis is taken from the prison camp and picked up by rescue workers.



## Social Sensitivity

Unquestionably, Wouk's overriding aim in *War and Remembrance* is to examine the causes and consequences of World War II. A participant in the conflict himself and a devout Orthodox Jew, Wouk is able to concentrate his literary skills in this novel on two subjects close to his heart: his appreciation for the military and his love for his Jewish heritage. The novel reveals the necessity for a strong military force, headed up by men of valor such as Victor Henry, in order for a country to ward off the terrors which may come at any time from demoniac figures who mesmerize their populace and strike out against other nations.

The novel explores the concept of military heroism, and while Pug Henry and his sons are the principal figures who exhibit the kind of courage Wouk admires, the author also provides significant commentary about the historical leaders and the common soldiers, sailors, and airmen who actually determined the fate of the United States and the Allies during the war. One of the novel's most significant contributions in this respect is Wouk's comparison of the quiet heroism of Admiral Raymond Spruance with the most blustery but ill-directed bravado of Admiral William "Bull" Halsey.

Wouk is also intent on revealing the horrors of the Holocaust, and much of the novel is given over to descriptions of the various efforts of the Germans to eradicate the European Jews. Using characters who evoke sympathy in his readers, Wouk dramatizes the ignominy to which even the most prominent Jewish leaders were subjected. He focuses readers' attention on the seemingly inexplicable question: Why did this happen? What would drive a people to wreak such vengeance on a group which did so little to deserve the treatment afforded to the Jews? The answer is not simple, and Wouk is careful not to reduce his portrait of villains and victims to simplistic caricatures.

Central to his investigation, too, is an analysis of the mind-set of the politicians and statesmen who instigated and continued the conflict. Wouk wants readers to see that wars are not simply a series of military engagements; there is a political dimension which cannot be ignored. Consequently, he discusses in some detail the reasons for decisions made by the heads of state for many of the belligerents — Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin, and Hitler — to show how personal biases and political exigencies are often as important as grand military strategy in deciding which battles to fight and which to avoid.



## Techniques

As he does in *The Winds of War*, Wouk presents his story from a variety of narrative perspectives, attempting to explain the rationale for the war, and even the rationale for the Holocaust.

Adopting such a technique allows him to offer a view of the war from the Germans' perspective, and to introduce real-life figures to speculate on their motives for acting as they did to influence the course of the conflict. The interaction of fictional characters with men such as Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and even Adolf Hitler, allows Wouk to portray the mind-set of these important historical figures. By ascribing to the more flexible traditions of the romance, Wouk is able to have his fictional personages interact freely with these great men; at times, his hero is made responsible for actions which determine the course of the war.

Balancing the professional memoirs of the fictional German General Armin von Roon, introduced to the readers in the earlier novel in the series, is a compelling account of the fictional Jewish American author Aaron Jastrow. *A Jew's Journey*, Jastrow's journal of his final months under the domination of the Nazis, offers a first-person insight into the evils perpetrated on the Jews by their captors. Wouk offers further balance by interrupting the fictional narrative on occasion to provide sweeping historical analyses of the important military engagements which determined the outcome of the war.

One learns much about both grand strategy and personal heroism from the author's accounts of the siege of Leningrad, the Battle of Midway, and the Battle of Leyte Gulf.



# Themes

## Duty

Duty is one of the overriding themes of the book, especially as seen in the lives of the various officers. Pug sacrifices time with his family in order to do his duty. He admits he has often left Rhoda alone while he was on some trip associated with his military career. While his career is important and he believes he is in line for another sea mission, Pug is called on by President Roosevelt to take on other duties that will certainly not give him the career boost he is hoping for. Nonetheless, he says he will do whatever the President wants of him and is soon on his way to Moscow. That job is followed by an assignment to oversee production of landing craft, a job Pug also takes on to the best of his ability though he wants to be in command of his own vessel at sea.

Warren does his duty to the end, even giving his life in the line of duty. Byron is also military minded. He confides in Pug that he is not certain he is ready to be in command of a submarine and Pug says he believes the person who made the assignment knows Byron is ready. Byron then says he is considering returning to base and stepping down. While Pug does not tell him he cannot do that, he does say there are lives that could be lost because Byron makes that decision and Byron stays at sea to face the battle.

While Rhoda is not the epitome of duty, she has done her duty by her children and husband up to the time of war separation. She accepts that the family moves often and even recalls during a train ride that she moved with her children on similar train rides. It is the fact she seems to do her duty as a military wife that attracts Harrison.

## The Will to Survive

Though many of the Jews walked to their deaths with no objections at all, many exhibited a strong will to survive. Natalie, Berel, Aaron, Sammy Mutterperl and others simply wanted to live. After Louis is taken from the camp, Natalie is determined to survive. As she is being taken "east" and knows her fate is in question, she decides that she will do whatever it takes. She promises herself that she will flirt, prostitute herself or anything. At one point, Natalie sees an SS officer holding Louis up by his legs and threatening to crack his skull open. She agrees to perform oral sex, takes a hit in the face and begs in an effort to stop the murder of her child.

Aaron calls himself a pile of "Jewish shit." It is a way to lower himself before the officers and it is required in order to keep the SS officers from hitting him. Aaron is asked by an SS officer to head up a "cultural department" and he asks if he is allowed to refuse. The officer says he can, then beats Aaron and tells him that he and Natalie will be transported if he does not do as he is told. Aaron is asked to become one of the Jewish officers who determines which Jews are to be transported. Aaron absolutely refuses. It is only on this point that Aaron is not willing to give in and Natalie supports him.



At times, Natalie and Aaron find ways to make themselves stronger. Natalie finds herself involved with Zionists and this fact puts her in line for deportation. They each find activities to be involved in, reading, teaching or working with children.

There are also those who hold onto their possessions, hoping to find a way to buy themselves out of trouble. Aaron is actually one of those. He has diamonds he intends to give Natalie to use for that purpose but does not have time.

## Love

There are several couples in this story who fall in and out of love. Pug and Pam admit they are in love but at times worry it is an "illusion of war." They continue to run across each other at various times, but it is almost always by chance and they never seem to have time to spend together. Pamela, as she considers marrying Duncan, says she does not love her fiancé as she loves Pug, but that they work well together.

After Warren's death, Janice and Byron spend a lot of time together whenever he is on shore leave. They soon become close and Byron tells his friend, Aster, that he and Janice are in love. Aster tells him he and Janice have been sleeping together and Byron's conscience should be clear. Byron insists he feels rotten because he feels he has led Janice on while he has a wife in a concentration camp. Nothing comes of it though Janice and Byron are stilted around each other thereafter. When Byron meets Natalie again, he tells her he loves her but the two of them are stilted with each other. It is to be expected considering what they have been through and it seems their love has survived the years, separation and sense of betrayal Byron feels because Natalie did not leave Europe with him when she had the chance.

Rhoda is another matter. She believes she loves Pug but is unable to remain faithful. She thinks she loves Kirby but leaves him to return to her husband. She is then faced with another man's attentions but forces herself to remain above board, though it is mainly because she does not want to allow others to talk about her.

# Style

## Point of View

The book is written in third person omniscient perspective—the only way the book could possibly work. The reader is required to skip from one place to another geographically in order to watch the lives of characters spread across the globe. No other option exists for the perspective of this book.

It should be noted the book is written in rough chronological order. This means the reader is often taken from the life of one character in the midst of a crisis and left to wonder about that character until the next time he or she comes to be the subject. While it is sometimes difficult to remain focused because of this, most readers will find it easy to identify with the characters, therefore not too difficult to remember the various people in their various situations.

## Setting

The book is set in countries around the world, ranging from Washington, D.C., to Prague. The book opens in Pearl Harbor shortly after the famed Japanese bombing of that naval base. There are references to many famous aspects of World War II, including D-Day, the landing at Normandy, Auschwitz, the battle at Midway and more. The fact that the book is set in an actual time period against real events and in real places make the lives of Pug, Warren, Byron and their families seem all the more real.

The majority of the historical facts are true. There are long expositions outlining some of the events. The reader will travel with the submariners and ship's captains as they battle off Midway where Americans give their lives in an effort that made a tremendous impact on the war. There are details of the historic meeting between world leaders and references to the man behind it all—Adolf Hitler. Against this setting, the lives of the characters take on a reality not often found in novels of this magnitude.

## Language and Meaning

The book is divided into exposition and dialog. There are long sections of description which can become tedious. The book is long—more than 1,300 pages—and it can be tempting to skip over these descriptions. Nonetheless, the places become more real through these descriptions. It is noteworthy that the author includes a postscript of historical notes, indicating that the events and many of the people are real.

The dialog is believable and it is easy to get caught up in the lives of the characters. There are some areas of the book that may be difficult for some readers. For example, the descriptions of the mass graves at the concentration camps can be very graphic and some readers may have trouble with these sections. There is little foul language and

what there is may be dismissed as almost necessary to remain true to the subject and the characters—many of them Naval officers.

## Structure

There is a prologue to the book called "The Winds of War." That book was published in 1971 and is set just prior to the setting of "War and Remembrance." The first book uses the historical events leading up to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. "War and Remembrance" begins just before the famed attack. This book is a stand alone novel and there is no need to have read the previous book in order to have a full understanding of this one.

The book is divided into seven sections averaging more than 200 pages each. Part 1 is entitled, "Where is Natalie?", Part 2 is "Midway," (270), Part 3 is "Byron and Natalie," Part 4 is "Pug and Rhoda" (595), Part 5 is "Pug and Pamela" (759), Part 6 is "The Paradise Ghetto," (954) and Part 7 is "Leyte Gulf" (1218). There are 99 chapters of varying length and the book begins with a note from the author outlining the previous book in the series and ends with historical notes, also from the author.

The fact that there are many characters and they are scattered around the world creates an interesting challenge for the reader. For example, Natalie Henry is introduced early in the story. She is aboard a boat attempting to escape what she perceives to be Jewish persecution. She and her uncle, Aaron Jastrow, an American writer, are encouraged to disembark under the care of a soldier who studied under Aaron. The scene then changes to the life of Natalie's husband, Byron. From there the reader goes into the life of Pamela Tudsbury and it is much later that the reader returns to learn of Natalie's fate. This creates a problem because it is easy to forget details of one character's life while being caught up with other characters for several chapters. To compound this, there is a time lag and the story does not flow in strict chronological time. The story will focus on one character's life for a period of time, then switch to another, spending some time catching up since the last point of contact with that character. This means that events prompt a particular incident in one person's life, but the telling of the event from another person's point of view may occur several chapters later.





## Quotes

"Warren dropped his father at the telephone exchange, saying he would take the footlockers to the fleet landing. Their parting was almost as casual as if they expected to dine together, but they shook hands, which they seldom did, and stared for a moment in each other's eyes, smiling."

—Warren and Pug upon Pug's departure for the open sea, Chapter 1, p. 21.

"All around him, men have been dropping in their tracks right along; often silently, sometimes with a groan or a cry. When kicking and clubbing does not rouse a man who falls, he gets a bullet through the head. This is a routine precaution, for partisans might otherwise revive and recruit him. Calmly but punctiliously the Germans blow each skull to pieces, leaving a red mass on the snow by the neck of the huddled Russian greatcoat."

Chapter 3, p. 43.

"Well, I like your indignation over Elsa. But she's a popular woman, and the Tanglin Club is a bore she can do without. What about the Chinese and Indians you saw uptown, swarming like rats in the garbage dump? That's Singapore's real color problem."

- Phillip Rule, Chapter 6, p. 79.

"Concentrating on holding depth, Byron could scarcely grasp that at last this was the real thing; not the launch of a yellow-headed dummy, but a TNT warhead attack on ships filled with Japanese soldiers. Except for the different sonar sound and the choking tension, it was so much like an attack school drill, or an exercise at sea!"

Chapter 7, p. 96.

"The destroyer could run circles around it, probing for it with sonar; and the tumbling depth charges did not even have to hit. Water transmits an explosion in a shock wave. A miss thirty feet off could finish the Devilfish. It was just a tube of nine long cylinders joined together, a habitable section of sewer pipe. Its pressure hull was less than an inch thick."

—Upon being struck by a depth charge, Chapter 10, p. 132.

"'And that's that. Back to battle stations. I just secured for a while to give the crew a chance to grab a sandwich and a piss.' 'You mean,' said Samtow, 'there's somebody left in this boat who hasn't already pissed in his pants?'"—Officers banter after the attack on the U.S.S. Devilfish, Chapter 12, p. 158.

"Military writers tend to shun the topic of this paper, but the Jewish question affected the



conduct of the Second World War and its outcome. The question cannot be forever ignored. Nor need one fear a frank probing of the problem, for the honor of the German soldier emerges intact." —General Armin von Roon, as translated by Victor Henry, Chapter 14, p. 187.

"This tall paunchy Republican grayhead naturally hated the New Deal and had strongly opposed a third term for that socialistic son of a bitch in the White House. With the fall of France in June 1940, however, and the nomination by the Republicans in July of a political amateur named Wendell Wilkie, Tuttle had decided that the socialistic son of a bitch had better stay in the White House." —William Tuttle on Roosevelt, Chapter 16, p. 214.

"I have concealed this news from Natalie. Her dread of the Germans and what they may do to her baby borders on the psychotic. As for me, I am not alarmed. I would just as lief work on here to the last, and—when the worst befalls and however it befalls—have my ashes scattered in the garden.  
—Aaron Jastrow, Chapter 19, p. 251.

"Under his bluff jolly exterior of a Christian humanitarian, President Roosevelt was a devious and frigid conqueror, much more fitted for war on the surface of a sphere than the impulsive, romantic European-minded Fuhrer."  
—General Armin von Roon, Chapter 21, p. 275.

"For in the Fuhrer's view, said Eichmann, making frequent pedantic gestures with a stiff forefinger, the Jewish problem had no boundaries. Could a European epidemic of bubonic plague, for instance, be stamped out if the germs were allowed to multiply unchecked beyond invisible lines on the ground called 'boundaries?' The Fuhrer's unshakable will was to cleanse the continent of the Jews."  
—Lieutenant Colonel Eichmann of the Gestapo governing Jews, Chapter 25, p. 325.

"The Enterprise was an iron eggshell eight hundred feet long, full of dynamite and human beings. Of this, he was edgily aware as never before. Jap eggshells just like it were probably only a few hundred miles away and closing. Who would surprise whom?"  
—Warren Henry, Chapter 28, p. 376.

"It was a perfect coordinated attack. It was timed almost to the second. It was a freak accident." —On the attack of the Japanese fleet at Midway, Chapter 30, p. 409.

"The opening phase of the battle occupied most of the morning of June 4. The middle phase lasted five minutes. The end took four days. The annals of military conflict, from



their dim origins in Chinese and Egyptian accounts to the present era, show no equal to the world-historical second phase, the Five Minutes of Midway."—From the writings of Armin von Roon, Chapter 31, p. 421.

"As in a crystal ball, Rhoda saw pictures in the sparkling blue bowl of the now-deserted swimming pool; Pug and Pamela together in those far-off places, not making love, perhaps not even kissing, but just being together, day after day, evening after evening, thousands of miles from home. The bitter knowing smile on the face of this woman was a picture of Eve with something on Adam. Pamela Tudsbury had told quite a good story, she thought, but old Pug couldn't have been quite the holy Joe she made him out." Chapter 33, p. 473.

"He cared nothing for the Jews. He had grown up in a Connecticut suburban town where they could not easily buy homes. His father, a quiet philosophical Wall Street lawyer, had had no close Jewish friends. At Yale, Slote had kept his distance from the Jewish students, and his secret society had tapped none. Natalie Jastro's Jewishness had once seemed to Slote a flaw about half as bad as being a Negro." Chapter 36, p. 499.

"But Hitler as a warlord could only go on compounding his own pigheaded mistakes. Since nobody could loosen his terror-grip on our armed forces, he dragged the German nation down with him." —Roon's comments, Chapter 39, p. 527.

"Europe is a Christian continent, isn't it? Well, what's going on? Where's the Pop? Mind you, there's one Catholic priest right here in Marseilles who's a saint, a one-man underground. I only hope the Gestapo doesn't murder him." —Jim Schwartz, Chapter 41, p. 562.

"That was a sight he would never forget: a black hole in his ship, rimmed in broken metal like a crudely opened can. The other hole below the water line was reported to be yet larger. Leaning over the lifelines, Pug dizzily felt that the ship might capsize then and there." —Upon the torpedoing of the Northampton, Chapter 45, p. 604.

"In this pilgrimage town you get the real thing, with a crowd of real worshippers; and because of the shrine, those who come include the paralyzed, the crippled, the blind, the deformed, the dying, a terrible parade; a parade of God's cruel jokes or inept mistakes, if you seriously maintain that He heeds the sparrow's fall." —From Aaron Jastrow's Jew's Journey, Chapter 54, p. 737.



"He did not fear that his wife and son really risked being caught in a continent-wide process of railroading Jews to secret camps in Poland, where they would be gassed to death and their bodies burned up. That was a fairy tale; even the Germans could not do such things." —Byron, Chapter 56, p. 763.

"The dead hold no terrors for Berel. In the old days, as an officer of the burial society, the 'hevra kadisha,' he washed and prepared for interment many bodies. Here the terrible odor, the disgusting condition of the long-buried corpses, cannot mar his deep affection for them. They cannot help the way they died, these pitiful Jews, many still streaked with black blood from visible bullet holes."  
Chapter 62, p. 857.

"Pamela wanted to know how things stood with Victor Henry, and the only way to find out was to face the man. The thousands of extra miles of wartime travel in midsummer were nothing."  
Chapter 67, p. 920.

"Boys fight the wars. We'd have the brotherhood of man tomorrow if the politicians had to get out and fight." —Philip Rule, Chapter 67, p. 925.

"Coming back from the dead would have to be something like this; normal life seems a mockery, a busy little make-believe game that shuts out a terrible truth beyond." —Berel Jastrow on his way to Prague, Chapter 68, p. 950.

"My lifelong posture of learned agnostic humanism was all very fine. My books about Christianity were not without merit. But taking it all in all, I have spent my life on the run. Now I turn and stand. I am a Jew. A fine early vulgarism goes, "What that man needs is a swift kick in the arse." It would seem to be my biography." —Aaron Jastrow in Theresienstadt, Chapter 73, p. 1,024.

"Rahm is not mentioning any of the things that really make Theresienstadt a hell instead of a paradise: the starvation diet, the hideous overcrowding, the lack of warm clothes, of heat, of latrines, of care centers for mental cases and for the old and crippled, all generating the terrible death rate. Of these things, not a word. He is proposing to paint a corpse." —Aaron Jastrow, Chapter 76, p. 1,054.

"Wherever we passed we saw happy, well-dressed, good-looking holiday strollers smoking cigars and cigarettes. 'Clockwork' is just the word. The Jews played their little happy parts with the stiffness of living dolls; and the 'visitors' once past, their motions



stopped, and they froze into poor scared Theresienstadt prisoners waiting for their next signal."—Aaron Jastrow on the 'dress rehearsal' for the Red Cross inspection, Chapter 84, p. 1,185.

"I have not become any braver, but there are really things worse than pain, worse than dying; not to mention that, in the grip of the Germans, a Jew probably has no way in the long run of escaping pain or death, unless the outside world rescues him. He might as well do something right."—Aaron Jastrow upon refusing to help choose who would be transported to the death camps, Chapter 89, p. 1,251.

"A strong child can hold fifteen pounds or so in his two hands, if the stuff is not bulky: say, two lumps of the man-made heavy element, plutonium. If the child holds the lumps far apart, nothing will happen. If he can clap his hands together very fast, and if he is a big-city child, he can make a 'critical mass' and kill a million people; that is, in theory. Actually, no child can move his arms that fast; at worst, he would make a fizzle that would kill him and cause a bad mess."  
Chapter 99, p. 1,362.

## Adaptations

Like its predecessor *The Winds of War*, this novel became the subject of a major television mini-series; the first half aired during the "sweeps week" in fall 1988, and the second half the following spring. Robert Mitchum continued in the role of Victor Henry, and many of the principals who had appeared with him in the earlier series reprised their roles for this adaptation.

However, some significant changes in cast were made: Jane Seymour took over the role of Natalie Jastrow, John Gielgud that of her uncle Aaron. Mike Connors appeared as Colonel Harrison Peters. The series did not receive the acclaim of its predecessor, but it, too, has appeared subsequently on cable networks and has been produced in videotape format for home use.



## Key Questions

Since *War and Remembrance* continues the story begun in *The Winds of War*, readers may be interested in exploring ways Wouk develops his characters and elaborates on his two central themes: the necessity of the United States to take the lead in stopping Hitler and the evils of the Holocaust.

Wouk is consistent in his denunciation of Nazism, and the hints of anti-Semitism provided in the earlier novel are drawn in graphic detail in *War and Remembrance*.

The novelist is also interested in continuing to celebrate the professional military officer whose courage and technical proficiency led to the defeat of Hitler's forces. In *War and Remembrance*, Wouk adds a historical hero to reinforce the qualities he has dramatized in his fictional protagonist, Victor Henry. Admiral Raymond Spruance, commander of the American fleet at Midway, is presented as the ideal military officer who has risen to lead large forces in defense of the country. Readers may find it interesting to compare Wouk's treatment of Spruance with that found in Thomas Buell's *The Quiet Warrior: A Biography of Admiral Raymond Spruance*.

1. As a sequel to *The Winds of War*, this novel contains many characters who make their first appearance in the earlier work. In what ways does Wouk continue to develop these characters?

Which ones grow and change? Which ones remain static?

2. Wouk provides detailed analyses of several key military battles, particularly Midway and Leyte Gulf. Has he portrayed the conflicts accurately? In what ways has he modified the historical record to accommodate his purposes as a novelist?

3. A central theme of *War and Remembrance* is the dramatization of the horrors of the Holocaust. How well does Wouk evoke the horrors of that event? How does he engage the reader and elicit sympathy for the victims? Is his explanation for the causes of the Holocaust adequate?

4. Wouk suggests that the Germans were able to perpetrate the Holocaust because other countries, particularly America, refused to believe it was happening. Why did this occur? Is Wouk's explanation in the novel sufficient, or is he guilty of special pleading?

5. In order to give a rounded portrait of the events of the war, Wouk includes the fictional memoirs of General Armin von Roon. How do these sections of the novel help readers understand the Germans' actions in the conflict? Is Roon presented dispassionately? How do Victor Henry's editorial comments help shape readers' attitudes toward the Germans?



6. Near the end of the novel, Victor Henry remarks that "either war is finished, or we are." In what ways does this serve as an overriding theme for Wouk's novel? How well does the author convince readers of this thesis?





## Topics for Discussion

Describe Pug's family. Who are his children and what are their jobs?

Describe Theresienstadt. What was the "beautification" project? Did it work? Why?

How were the Jews killed? What was Berel Jastrow's role? Why did so many simply walk to the gas chambers? Were the Germans effective at keeping control of the prisoners? How?

Describe Rhoda's affair. What is it that prompts her to end it? What does she tell Pug about it? Is she truthful? How does it carry over into her next relationship?

How does Warren die? What is the impact on the family? How is Pug occupied when Warren is killed? What does he say about that?

There are many aspects of this book that are historically correct. Select three and tell how historical fact is woven into the fiction of the lives of the Henry family and their friends.

Who is "Talky" Tudsbury? What is his role in the war? What is Pamela's formal capacity with Talky? Does she want to continue in that vein after he is killed? Is she successful?

What does Leslie Slote do with the information about the Jewish exterminations? Is he successful in bringing attention to the issue? What is his eventual course of action? Why? What advice does he give Byron about Natalie?

## Literary Precedents

The title of this novel alludes to Wouk's primary source for his study: Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace* (1869).

Wouk wishes to do for his century and for World War II what the Russian author did for his era and the Napoleonic Wars. Wouk is also indebted to two classical sources to which he refers in the narrative and which also tell of the heroics of national heroes in times of national crises: Homer's *Iliad* and Thucydides' *The History of the Peloponnesian War*. Wouk indicates in the afterword that he also relies on the tradition of the romance, in which authors freely mix historical fact with fiction; in this novel, the mixture involves the use of fictional characters to influence the course of historical events.

## Related Titles

The two volumes of War and Remembrance are a continuation of the story Wouk begins in *The Winds of War*. Indeed, much of the exposition that allows the reader to make sense of the various major plot lines of War and Remembrance is provided in the earlier novel. Thematically, these volumes are also closely allied to *The Caine Mutiny*.

Wouk is consistent over the decades in touting the virtues of the career military officer, the capability and adaptability of the non-careerist under pressure, and the courage of Americans when faced with adversity.



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