



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

by Laura Hillenbrand

On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared—Lt. Louis Zamperini.

Captured by the Japanese and driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini answers desperation with ingenuity; and suffering with hope, resolve, and humor.

**If you like POW survival stories that emphasize the enduring power of hope, and strength-of-will in times of despair, try...**

**Conduct Under Fire** by John Glusman (Nonfiction 940.547252 Glu). The author's father and three fellow Navy doctors, all captured in the Philippines, treat fellow POWs.

**Belly of the Beast: A POW's Inspiring True Story of Faith, Courage, and Survival Aboard the Infamous WWII Japanese Hell Ship Oryoku Maru** by Judith Pearson (Nonfiction 940.547252 Pea). The brutal ordeal of a U.S. Naval Corpsman aboard the infamous Oryoku Maru, detailing hardships that claimed the lives of more than three quarters of the prisoners.

**Ghost Soldiers: The Forgotten Epic Story of WWII's Most Dramatic Mission** by Hampton Sides (Nonfiction 940.542599 Sid). The U.S. Army Sixth Ranger Battalion rescues 513 American and British POWs from a hellish POW camp in the Philippines.

**Flyboys: A True Story of Courage** by James Bradley (Nonfiction 940.5449 Bra). The story of eight American airmen who were shot down over Chichi Jima, one of whom was rescued and later became president of the United States.

**If you like compelling historical fiction about WWII, try...**

**Pacific Glory** by P.T. Deutermann (New Fiction Deu). Savo Island, Midway, and the Battle of Samar, three of the defining naval battles of WWII in the Pacific, will draw history buffs to this riveting novel.

**Broken Jewel: A Novel** by David Robbins (Fiction Rob). Set against the backdrop of the Los Banos prison raid—one of the most daring episodes of World War II—"Broken Jewel" tells a powerful story of war, love, and survival.

**Ordinary Heroes** by Scott Turow (Fiction Tur). Stewart plunges into the mystery of his family's secret history when he discovers his deceased father's wartime letters revealing his court-martial and imprisonment during World World II.

**Eyes of the Emperor** by Graham Salisbury (YA Sal). A 16-year-old Japanese American and his buddies become part of Company B of the 100th Infantry Battalion following the attack on Pearl Harbor.

**The Night Watch** by Sarah Waters (Fiction Wat). A tale set in World War II London finds a rescue worker struggling for composure after a bombing, a young woman longing for her soldier lover, and a convict who watches a battle through the bars of his window.

**If you are inspired by the resilience of the human spirit, try...**

**The Glass Castle: A Memoir** by Jeannette Walls (362.292 Wal). Once hesitant to have people find out about her unconventional childhood, the author tells of growing up with dysfunctional parents.

**Night** by Elie Wiesel (940.5318 Wie). The harrowing account of Wiesel's experiences in Nazi concentration camps, and a thought-provoking story of the resilience of humanity in the face of absolute evil.

**Strength in What Remains: A Journey of Remembrance and Forgiveness** by Tracy Kidder (305.896 Kid). A young man survives civil war and genocide, escapes to America, learns English by reading dictionaries in bookstores, and along the way meets a series of strangers who will change his life.

**Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster** by Jon Krakauer (796.522 Kra). Heroism and sacrifice triumph over foolishness, fatal error, and human frailty for most of the members of this commercial expedition up Mount Everest in 1996 that went wrong.

**To pursue the "lost at sea" theme, check out...**

**The Perfect Storm: A True Story of Men Against the Sea** by Sebastian Junger (910.4 Jun). The *Andrea Gail* and its crew of six prove to be no match for the destructive forces of a powerful storm.

**Life of Pi: A Novel** by Yann Martel (Fiction Mar). The son of a zookeeper sets sail with his family and part of their menagerie to relocate to Canada. His trans-Pacific sea adventure becomes a magical experience about adventure, survival, and ultimately, faith.

