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Comprehensive Study Guide

Unbroken

Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption
Laura Hillenbrand, 2010
Random House
496 pp.
ISBN-13: 9781400064168

Summary

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. It was that of a young lieutenant, the plane's bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft and pulling himself aboard. So began one of the most extraordinary odysseys of the Second World War.

The lieutenant's name was Louis Zamperini. In boyhood, he'd been a cunning and incorrigible delinquent, breaking into houses, brawling, and fleeing his home to ride the rails. As a teenager, he had channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics and within sight of the four-minute mile. But when war had come, the athlete had become an airman, embarking on a journey that led to his doomed flight, a tiny raft, and a drift into the unknown.

Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, a foundering raft, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will.

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Author Laura Hillenbrand

Author Bio

- Birth—1967
- Where—Fairfax, Virginia, USA
- Education—B.A., Kenyon College
- Awards—William Hill Sports Book of the Year Award;
- National Book Critics Circle Award Nomination, 2002
- Currently—lives in Washington, D.C.

Laura Hillenbrand is an American author of books and magazine articles. Born in Fairfax, Virginia, Hillenbrand spent much of her childhood riding bareback "screaming over the hills" of her father's Sharpsburg, Maryland, farm. A favorite of hers was "Come On Seabiscuit", a 1963 children's book. "I read it to death, my little paperback copy," she says.

She studied at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, but was forced to leave before graduation when she contracted Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. She has struggled with the condition ever since, remaining largely confined to her home. On the irony of writing about physical paragons while being so incapacitated herself, she says, "I'm looking for a way out of here. I can't have it physically, so I'm going to have it intellectually. It was a beautiful thing to ride Seabiscuit in my imagination. And it's just fantastic to be there alongside Louie Zamperini [hero of Unbroken] as he's breaking the NCAA mile record. People at these vigorous moments in their lives—it's my way of living vicariously.

She now lives in Washington, D.C, with her husband, Borden Flanagan, a professor of Government at American University. They were college sweethearts and married in 2008.

Writings

- Seabiscuit: An American Legend, Random House (New York, NY), 2001, special illustrated collector's edition, 2003.
- Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption, Random House (New York, NY), 2010.

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Contributor to periodicals, including American Heritage, New Yorker, Blood-Horse, Thoroughbred Times, Backstretch, Turf, Sport Digest. Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, and USA Today.

Hillenbrand's first book was the acclaimed *Seabiscuit: An American Legend* (2001), a non-fiction account of the career of the great racehorse Seabiscuit, for which she won the William Hill Sports Book of the Year in 2001. She says she was compelled to tell the story because she "found fascinating people living a story that was improbable, breathtaking and ultimately more satisfying than any story [she'd] ever come across." She first told the story through an essay she sold to American Heritage magazine, and the feedback was positive, so she decided to proceed with a full novel. Upon the book's release, she received rave reviews for her storytelling and research. It was made into the Academy Award nominated film *Seabiscuit* (2003).

Hillenbrand's second book is *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* (2010), a biography of World War II hero Louis Zamperini (1917-).

Her essays have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Equus* magazine, *American Heritage*, *Blood-Horse*, *Thoroughbred Times*, *Backstretch*, *Turf and Sport Digest*, and many other publications. Her 1998 *American Heritage* article on the horse Seabiscuit won the Eclipse Award for Magazine Writing.

Hillenbrand is a co-founder of Operation Iraqi Children.

With her debut book, *Seabiscuit: An American Legend*, Laura Hillenbrand has written an exciting book that has already won the Triple Crown of publishing: runaway sales of a nonfiction sports book, nomination for the National Book Award Critics Circle Award, and a movie version from Universal Studios.

The first paragraph of the preface sets the tone of the book. "In 1938, near the end of the decade of monumental turmoil, the year's number-one newsmaker was not Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Hitler, or Mussolini. It wasn't Pope Pius XI, nor was it Lou Gehrig, Howard Hughes, or Clark Gable. The subject of the most newspaper column inches in 1938 wasn't even a person. It was an undersized, crooked-legged racehorse named Seabiscuit. In the latter half of the Depression, Seabiscuit was nothing short of a cultural icon in America, enjoying adulation so intense and broad-based that it transcended sport."

The heroes in Seabiscuit's story include the burned-out, knobby-kneed racehorse; his jockeys, Red Pollard, down and out and half blind, and George Woolf, cool and cocky but doomed; the aging western trainer Tom Smith, and horseman Charles S. Howard, a Buick dealer and self-made man. Their story played out against the backdrop of the

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Great Depression. One in four breadwinners was unemployed, foreclosure was common, thousands were hungry. Spectator sports, radio programming, and movie theaters offered an escape and created instant celebrity, even for horses. Enamored of the rags-to-riches myth, Americans were quick to idolize those who exemplified it. Driven by hunger, hope, and heart, Seabiscuit and his crew lived the rags-to-riches dream.

Between 1935 and 1940, Seabiscuit traveled over 50,000 miles by train and was mobbed at every whistle stop. Jim Squires, reviewing the book in the New York Times, wrote that "as the most popular and most watched personality in the world, he was the 30's era equivalent of Elvis or the Beatles, and, as a sports attraction, could draw bigger crowds than Tiger Woods."

Charles Howard embodied the entrepreneurial spirit of the age. A one-time bicycle repairman, he became a millionaire selling "horseless carriages" to the western United States. He fell in love with racehorses and hired Tom Smith, a closed-mouthed old mustang breaker from the High Plains, as his trainer. It was Smith who saw something in this horse that had run seventeen races before he won. Small, mud-colored and knock-kneed, Charles Howard bought him at auction in 1936 for \$ 8,000 dollars and hired Red Pollard, a one eyed, over-the-hill boxer, as his jockey.

"Silent" Tom Smith set about transforming an animal everyone else called lazy, awkward, and hostile into a great racehorse. Even if no one from the Eastern establishment world of thoroughbreds had ever seen his frontier style of training, everyone agreed that the "Lone Plainsman," as Smith was called, could "talk horse." A newspaper reporter once quipped that "Tom Smith says almost nothing, constantly." Hillenbrand describes Smith, who'd trained rodeo horses and learned his craft from Plains Indians, "[as having] the ethereal quality of hoof prints in windblown snow."

Hillenbrand interviewed aging jockeys and horsemen to give the book plenty of local color. Racing scenes in California in the '30s and her characterization of Pollard and George Woolf were especially praised by the critics.

Pollard is remembered as the poet laureate of jockeys, known for his seemingly telepathic understanding of difficult horses and his love for Emerson's poetry. Hillenbrand's description of Pollard's tumble, which kept him out of a great match race, is especially good: "Jockeys say there is a small, bright sound when hooves clip against each other, a cheery portent of the wreck that is likely to follow. ... Pollard must have heard it. Fair Knightess' forelegs were kicked out from under her. Unable to catch herself, she pitched into a somersault at forty miles per hour ... Pollard went down with her, his helpless form following the line of her fall, over her back and neck and vanishing under her crashing body. She came down onto him with terrific force

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George Woolf was no less competitive as a jockey: In one race, recounts Hillenbrand, "the wire was looming overhead, and Ligaroti was lunging for the lead. Woolf could not move Seabiscuit up. With just a few yards to go, Woolf was frantic. ... He had to move Ligaroti back. With twenty yards to go, Woolf tore his hand free, threw out his right arm and grabbed Ligaroti's bridle, just above the bit. Just as the wire passed overhead, he pulled back, lifting the horse's head up and to the left as Seabiscuit's head bobbed forward. Seabiscuit flew under the wire." As Jane Smiley wrote in the *Washington Post*, Hillenbrand's "effort shows in the details and the energy of her story; her historical figures, horses and people, live and breathe in a lively, lovely way."

All of America was listening to the long-awaited race between Seabiscuit and his arch rival, War Admiral. It was a classic match-up. Seabiscuit was the new West, War Admiral represented the Eastern establishment. The country had waited for more than a year to see them race. In the climax of the book, Hillenbrand recounts "the greatest race in history," run at Pimlico Race Track in Maryland on November 1, 1938, with all the excitement of first class sports reporting.

That *Seabiscuit* was written at all is a story of courage all its own. In 1987, a virulent case of food poisoning left Hillenbrand bedridden for ten months, fighting fevers, chills, and profound exhaustion. Doctors could not make a definitive diagnosis: some thought she had contracted AIDS, others suspected multiple sclerosis. Since there was no clear diagnosis, some doctors, as well as some friends, thought it was merely psychosomatic. Finally she was diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS).

CFS is a disease that leaves many of its victims completely disabled and unable to take care of themselves. In a *Washington Post* interview, Jennifer Frey wrote that "she is thirty-three years old and can't walk a block without becoming incredibly tired. Her morning shower exhausts her. Vertigo causes the words on the computer screen to dip and weave as she types."

Hillenbrand's efforts to write *Seabiscuit* caused her condition to worsen, but as her health began to improve, Hillenbrand started looking for a new writing project. She eventually decided to tell the life story of Louis Zamperini, an Olympic runner who went on to serve as a bombardier during World War II. During the war, Zamperini and two of his crewmates survived a plane crash, drifting together on a raft for over two thousand miles. One of the men died during this time, and Zamperini and the remaining survivor were ultimately captured by Japanese forces and interred in a POW camp. There, Zamperini endured years of torture before he was finally returned to the United States.

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Hillenbrand relates these astounding events in *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*. She discussed her decision to write about Zamperini in a *New Yorker* interview. "I found Louie while researching my first book subject, the great Depression-era racehorse Seabiscuit. As I hunted for information on the horse, I kept coming across stories about this kid runner named Zamperini, who took the 1930s track world by storm and went on to endure an incredible odyssey in World War II. I wanted to know more." She added: "After Seabiscuit was released, I tracked down Louie's address and wrote him a letter. When I got a friendly letter back, I called him, and he began telling me about his life. ... As he spoke of the abuses he had endured as a POW, there was no anger in his voice." She continued: "I asked him how he could speak so painlessly of men who had driven him to the edge of physical and emotional destruction. He replied that he had forgiven them. That conversation hooked me. There was more than enough in Louie's life to obsess me for seven years."

Book Reviews

Applauding the book in *Newsweek*, Malcolm Jones found that "it takes only a few pages of *Unbroken*, Hillenbrand's marvelous account of Zamperini's adventures in and out of wartime, to see why his story so captured her imagination--and to see how well her seven years of work have paid off." He added: " *Unbroken* is wonderful twice over, for the tale it tells and for the way it's told. A better book than *Seabiscuit*, it manages maximum velocity with no loss of subtlety. With a jeweler's eye for a detail that makes a story live, Hillenbrand compresses pages of explanation into a paragraph and sometimes just a line."

Malcolm Jones - *Newsweek*

Just as she demonstrated in *Seabiscuit*, Ms. Hillenbrand is a muscular, dynamic storyteller...Her command of the action-adventure idiom is more than enough to hold interest. But she happens also to have located a tale full of unforgettable characters, multi-hanky moments and wild turns. And if some of it sounds too much like pulp fiction to be true, Ms. Hillenbrand has also done a bang-up research job.... [*Unbroken*] manages to be as exultant as *Seabiscuit* as it tells a much more harrowing, less heart-warming story.

Janet Maslin - *New York Times*

Will you be able to put [*Unbroken*] down once you poke your nose into it? You will not.... No one delivers a play-by-play better than Laura Hillenbrand.... No other author of narrative nonfiction chooses her subjects with greater discrimination or renders them with more discipline and commitment. If storytelling were an Olympic event, she'd medal for sure.

Laura Miller - *Salon*

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Book Reviews

A second book by the author of *Seabiscuit* (2001) would get noticed, even if it weren't the enthralling and often grim story of Louie Zamperini. An Olympic runner during the 1930s, he flew B-24s during WWII. Taken prisoner by the Japanese, he endured a captivity harsh even by Japanese standards and was a physical and mental wreck at the end of the war. He was saved by the influence of Billy Graham, who inspired him to turn his life around, and afterward devoted himself to evangelical speeches and founding boys' camps. Still alive at 93, Zamperini now works with those Japanese individuals and groups who accept responsibility for Japanese mistreatment of POWs and wish to see Japan and the U.S. reconciled. He submitted to 75 interviews with the author as well as contributing a large mass of personal records. Fortunately, the author's skills are as polished as ever, and like its predecessor, this book has an impossible-to-put-down quality that one commonly associates with good thrillers.
Roland Green – Booklist

(Starred review.) From the 1936 Olympics to WWII Japan's most brutal POW camps, Hillenbrand's heart-wrenching new book is thousands of miles and a world away from the racing circuit of her bestselling *Seabiscuit*. But it's just as much a page-turner, and its hero, Louie Zamperini, is just as loveable.... In May 1943 his B-24 crashed into the Pacific. After a record-breaking 47 days adrift on a shark-encircled life raft with his pal and pilot, Russell Allen "Phil" Phillips, they were captured by the Japanese. In the "theater of cruelty" that was the Japanese POW camp network, Louie landed in the cruelest theaters of all: Omori and Naoetsu, under the control of Corp. Mutsuhiro Watanabe, a pathologically brutal sadist (called the Bird by camp inmates) who never killed his victims outright—his pleasure came from their slow, unending torment.... And Louie, with his defiant and unbreakable spirit, was Watanabe's victim of choice. By war's end, Louie was near death. When Naoetsu was liberated in mid-August 1945, a depleted Louie's only thought was "I'm free!"... But as Hillenbrand shows, Louie was not yet free. [he was] haunted in his dreams, drinking to forget, and obsessed with vengeance. Hillenbrand...writes movingly of the thousands of postwar Pacific PTSD sufferers [who had] no help for their as yet unrecognized illness.... The book's final section is the story of how...Louie found his path. It is impossible to condense the rich, granular detail of Hillenbrand's narrative of the atrocities committed...against American POWs in Japan, and the courage of Louie and his fellow POWs.... Hillenbrand's triumph is that in telling Louie's story (he's now in his 90s), she tells the stories of thousands whose suffering has been mostly forgotten. She restores to our collective memory this tale of heroism, cruelty, life, death, joy, suffering, remorselessness, and redemption.
Sarah F. Gold - Publishers Weekly

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Book Reviews

The author of *Seabiscuit* (2001) returns with another dynamic, well-researched story of guts overcoming odds. Hillenbrand examines the life of Louis Zamperini, an American airman who, after his bomber crashed in the Pacific during World War II, survived 47 days on a life raft only to be captured by Japanese soldiers and subjected to inhuman treatment for the next two years at a series of POW camps. That his life spiraled out of control when he returned home to the United States is understandable. However, he was able to turn it around after meeting Billy Graham, and he became a Christian speaker and traveled to Japan to forgive his tormentors. The author reconstructs Zamperini's wild youth, when his hot temper, insubordination, and bold pranks seemed to foretell a future life of crime. His talents as a runner, however, changed all that, getting him to the 1936 Olympics and to the University of Southern California, where he was a star of the track team. When the story turns to World War II, Hillenbrand expands her narrative to include men who served with him in the Air Corps in the Pacific. Through letters and interviews, she brings to life not just the men who were with Zamperini on the life raft and in the Japanese camps, but the families they left behind. The suffering of the men is often difficult to read, for the details of starvation, thirst and shark attacks are followed by the specifics of the brutalities inflicted by the Japanese, particularly the sadistic Mutsuhiro Watanabe, who seemed dedicated to making Zamperini's life unbearable. Hillenbrand follows Watanabe's life after the Japanese surrender, providing the perfect foil to Zamperini's. When Zamperini wrote to his former tormentor to forgive him and attempted to meet him in person, Watanabe rejected him. Throughout are photographs of World War II bombers, POW camps, Zamperini and his fellow GIs and their families and sweethearts, providing a glimpse into a bygone era. Zamperini is still thriving at age 93. Alternately stomach-wrenching, anger-arousing and spirit-lifting--and always gripping.

Kirkus Reviews

The author of *Seabiscuit* now brings us a biography of World War II prisoner of war survivor Louis Zamperini (b. 1917). A track athlete at the 1936 Munich Olympics, Zamperini became a B-24 crewman in the U.S. Army Air Force. When his plane went down in the Pacific in 1943, he spent 47 days in a life raft, then was picked up by a Japanese ship and survived starvation and torture in labor camps. Eventually repatriated, he had a spiritual rebirth and returned to Japan to promote forgiveness and healing. Because of the author's popularity, libraries will want this book both for general readers who like a good story and for World War II history buffs; however, it's not essential reading for those who read Zamperini's autobiography, *Devil at My Heels*, with David Rensin, in its 2003 edition.

Library Journal

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Discussion Questions

1. Readers and critics alike have described *Unbroken* as gripping, almost impossible to put down. Was that your experience as well? How do you account for the page-turning quality given the grim subject material? Also, would your reading experience have been different if you didn't know that Zamperini survived? (Or didn't you know the outcome?)
2. Laura Hillenbrand gives us a moving story, one that brings to life the suffering and courage of not just one man but thousands, whose stories are untold. What is it about Hillenbrand's writing that saves her book from becoming mired in bathos and melodrama?
3. What do you admire most about Zamperini? What enables him to survive the plane crash and POW ordeal? Does he possess special strengths—personal or physical? Did his training in track, for instance, make a difference in his resilience?
4. How do the POW captives help one another survive? How are they able to communicate with one another? What devices do Zamperini and others use not only to survive but to maintain sanity?
5. What do you find most horrifying about Zamperini's captivity?
6. Does this book make you wonder at mankind's capacity for cruelty? What accounts for it—especially on the part of the Japanese, a highly cultured and civilized society? (The same question, of course, has been applied to the Nazis.)
7. Hillenbrand devotes time to the difficulty of veterans' re-entering life after the war. She says, "there was no one right way to peace; each man had to find his own path." What is Zamperini's path? How does his conversion under Billy Graham help him? What role does his wife, Cynthia, play?
8. Follow-up to Question 7: Why, after World War II, did the medical profession fail to acknowledge Post Traumatic Stress Disorder? After all, this was the mid-20th century, and psychiatry was a fairly established discipline. Plus, the horrors of World War I were only one generation behind. What took so long?
9. *Unbroken* is a classic inspirational story, but it lies somewhat on the surface, offering little in the way of psychological depth. Do you wish there were more introspection in Zamperini's account? Or do you feel this story is rich enough as it is?

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Discussion Questions

10. Did you like the book? Would you add it to your permanent book collection? What do you like or not like about this book? The story is told from the standpoint of a narrator. Why did the author choose this style to tell this story? |
11. Laura Hillenbrand also wrote the book: *Seabiscuit: An American Legend*. This book told a very different type of story. Were you surprised at how different they are? When Louie was young he was famous for stealing things. He mostly took things to eat. Do you think he was hungry or was he doing it for the fun of it? He was well known and thought of as a nuisance by the local police. Would a kid like that in today's society be in more or less trouble with the law?
12. The Notre Dame coach warned Louis that the other runners planned to hurt him during the race. What could he have done to protect himself? Do you think this is just "part of the game" in most sports?
13. What was unique about the setting of the book and how did it enhance or take away from the story? Do you think the Germans and the Italians treated WW II American POWs differently? Do you think American POWs were treated any better or worse during Korea, Vietnam, the Civil War, Desert Storm, or any other Wars or military actions? In your opinion, in what war did they receive the worst treatment?
14. Even after they were pronounced dead by the Army, the families held on to the belief that their loved ones were still alive. What about the family members of the other men in the crew who went down with the plane; do you think they held to similar beliefs?
15. Cecy remained loyal to her man and when he returned they were married. Many marriages took place shortly after the war. This led to the Baby boom generation. Are you a boomer? Do similar surges in birth rates take place after every conflict? A lot of "Dear John" letters were written during WW II. Are such letters more common in more recent conflicts?
16. Do the characters seem real and believable? Can you imagine yourself in their place? How were the characters changed by the events in the story?
17. Louie turned his life around after attending a Billy Graham revival. Do you know others who changed their life because of a religious experience? At the same time Louie's wife was planning on leaving him for good. Which event do you think influenced his turn around the most?

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Discussion Questions

15. Louie eventually went back to Japan and confronted his tormenter. Would you have been able to forgive the way Louie did? Is forgiveness a part of the religious experience Louie had at the revival?
16. Talk about the parts of the book that made you feel uncomfortable? What were some of the "feel good" moments in this story?
17. America tried to avoid direct entry into WWII, but was pulled in after the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. Did this novel, in general, affect your views on war, and more specifically, on the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki? If so, in what ways?
18. Louie endured many horrific experiences during the war, miraculously surviving each. Today Louie is a vibrant age 94. Do you believe by mere chance "Lucky Louie" survived WWII or did Louie's survival come from some unique qualities or strengths? Explain your response.
19. *Unbroken* conjures up many emotions. What emotion did you feel most strongly while reading this novel?
20. Despite adoption of the 1929 Geneva Convention on the fundamental rights of POWs, the Japanese blatantly disregarded it, and inflicted unconscionable brutality and degradations on their captives during WWII. What do you think accounts for such levels of cruelty, especially coming from a highly civilized society as Japan?
21. Louie, as experienced by many war veterans, had a difficult time readjusting to day-to-day life after the war. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder was still not acknowledged during this time. It was referred to as "shell shock" and considered more a sign of personal weakness. Why do you think this disorder was not fully recognized before 1980, especially given the dismal statistics on the WWI and WWII veterans?

Recommended Similar Titles

Abandon Ship! : The Saga of the U.S.S. Indianapolis, the Navy's Greatest Sea Disaster, by Richard F. Newcomb

Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy, by Eric Metaxas

The Caine Mutiny, by Herman Wouk

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Recommended Similar Titles

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The Caine Mutiny, by Herman Wouk

Flyboys: A True Story of Courage, by James Bradley

Horse Soldiers: The Extraordinary Story of a Band of US Soldiers Who Rode to Victory in Afghanistan, by Doug Stanton

In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the USS Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors, by Doug Stanton

In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin, by Erik Larson

Let the Sea Make a Noise: A History of the North Pacific from Magellan to MacArthur, by Walter A. McDougall

Life of Pi, by Yann Martel

Lost in Shangri-La: A True Story of Survival, Adventure, and the Most Incredible Rescue Mission of World War II, by Mitchell Zuckoff

Operation Drumbeat: The Dramatic True Story of Germany's First U-boat Attacks Along the American Coast in World War II, by Michael Gannon

Recommended Movies

The American pastime [videorecording] / T&C Ventures Ltd.; T&C Pictures, Shadowcatcher Entertainment, Rosy Bushes Productions present a Desmond Nakano film ; produced by Tom Gorla, Terry Spazek, Barry Rosenbuch; written by Desmond Nakano & Tony Kayden; directed by Desmond Nakano.
Burbank, CA: Distributed by Warner Home Video, 2007.
DVD 813.6 AME

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Recommended Movies

Bataan [videorecording] / Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer presents; produced by Irving Starr; original screen play by Robert D. Andrews; directed by Tay Garnett.

Burbank, CA: Warner Home Video, 2000, c1943.

DVD 813.52 BAT

The bridge on the River Kwai [videorecording] / Columbia Pictures presents a Sam Spiegel production; screenplay by Michael Wilson and Carl Foreman; produced by Sam Spiegel; directed by David Lean.

Culver City, CA: Columbia TriStar Home Video, 2000.

DVD 823.914 BRI

Empire of the sun [videorecording] / Warner Bros. Pictures; directed by Steven Spielberg; screenplay by Tom Stoppard; produced by Steven Spielberg, Kathleen Kennedy, Frank Marshall.

Burbank, CA: Warner Home Video, 2001.

DVD 813.54 EMP

Flags of our fathers [videorecording] / DreamWorks Pictures and Warner Bros. Pictures present; A Malpas/Amblyn Entertainment; produced by Clint Eastwood, Robert Lorenz, Steven Spielberg; screenplay by William Broyles, Jr. and Paul Haggis; directed by Clint Eastwood.

Universal City, CA: DreamWorks, 2007.

DVD 813.6 FLA

The great raid [videorecording] / Miramax Films presents a Marty Katz production in association with Lawrence Bender Productions; produced by Lawrence Bender, Marty Katz; screenplay by Carlo Bernard & Doug Miro; directed by John Dahl.

Burbank, CA: Miramax Home Entertainment: Distributed by Buena Vista Home Entertainment, 2005.

DVD 813.6 GRE

Gung ho! [videorecording] / written by Joseph Hoffman; directed by Ray Enright; produced by Walter Wanger.

[S.I.]: Miracle Pictures: DVD Movie, 2002.

DVD 813.54 GUN

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Recommended Movies

Hell in the Pacific [videorecording] / screenplay by Alexander Jacobs, Eric Bercovici; story by Reuben Bercovitch; produced by Reuben Bercovitch; directed by John Boorman.

Santa Monica, CA: MGM Home Entertainment [distributor, 2004]

DVD 813.54 HEL

Letters from Iwo Jima [videorecording] / Warner Bros. Pictures and Dreamworks Pictures present a Malpaso/Amblin Entertainment production; produced by Clint Eastwood, Robert Lorenz, Steven Spielberg; story by Iris Yamashita & Paul Haggis; screenplay by Iris Yamashita; directed by Clint Eastwood.

Burbank, CA: Warner Home Video, 2006.

DVD 813.6 LET

Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence [videorecording] / a Jeremy Thomas production; a Nagisa Oshima film; screenplay by Nagisa Oshima with Paul Mayersberg; producer, Jeremy Thomas; directed by Nagisa Oshima; National Film Trustee Company; made in association with Antares-Nova N.V., Recorded Picture Company, Oshima Productions, Asahi National Broadcasting Co. Ltd. and Broadbank Investments Limited.

Irvington, NY: Criterion Collection, 2010.

DVD 823.914 MER

Olympia [videorecording] / gestaltet von Leni Riefenstahl.

Venice, CA: Pathfinder Home Entertainment, 2006.

DVD 796.480943 OLY

Paradise road [videorecording] / Fox Searchlight Pictures presents a Village Roadshow Pictures production in association with YTC Motion Picture Investments and Planet Pictures; produced by Sue Milliken & Greg Coote; written and directed by Bruce Beresford.

Beverly Hills, CA: Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment, 2000.

DVD 813.54 PAR

Saving Private Ryan [videorecording] / DreamWorks Pictures and Paramount Pictures present an Amblin Entertainment production in association with Mutual Film Company; produced by Steven Spielberg, Ian Royce, Mark Gordon, Gary Levinson; written by Robert Rodat; directed by Steven Spielberg.

Universal City, CA: DreamWorks Home Entertainment, 1999.

DVD 813.54 SAV

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Recommended Movies

Seabiscuit [videorecording] / Universal Pictures/Dreamworks Pictures/Spyglass Entertainment present a Larger Than Life-Kennedy/Marshall production; produced by Kathleen Kennedy, Frank Marshall, Gary Ross, Jane Sindell; written for the screen and directed by Gary Ross.

Universal City, CA: Universal, 2003.

DVD 813.6 SEA

Three came home [videorecording] / presented by Darryl F. Zanuck; produced and written by Nunnally Johnson.

Piscataway, NJ: Alpha Video Distributors, 2002.

DVD 813.54 THR

Who's Who Index

Character

Description

Louie Zamperini	He is the Olympic runner and WWII POW survivor of Japanese capture and torture about whom Hillenbrand is writing this biography.
Peter Zamperini	Louie's brother. By standing up to the principal and requesting Louie be allowed to participate in sports, he helped turn Louie from a life of crime to a life of achievement. Married Doris and had three children.
Anthony and Louise Zamperini	Louie's parents.
Sylvia Zamperini and Virginia Zamperini	Louie's sisters.
Cynthia Applewhite	Louie's wife. When Louie first saw this beautiful Miami Beach debutant, he had the wild thought that he had to marry her.

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Who's Who Index

Character	Description
Mutsuhiro Watanabe	He is "The Bird"; he is a sadist who takes pleasure in torturing Louie and other officers and many others during their time as WWII Japanese POWs.
Kawamura, Hatto, and Kano	They are Japanese guards/soldiers who showed kindness and compassion to the POWs unlike the majority.
Suehara Kitamura	"Quack". Medical officer at Yokohama's Ofuna interrogation camp for high value prisoners.
Glenn Cunningham	He is Louie's role model, burn victim believed never to walk again, an Olympic runner, who like Louie almost breaks the 4 minute mile, and shows Louie how someone can survive horrible tragedy and become a champion.
William Harris	He is a Marine Corp legend, who after surviving horrific beatings and failed escape attempts from Japanese POW camps, disappeared after charging alone up a hill firing two rifles straight at the Chinese during the Korean War. Photographic memory.
Frank Glassman	Radio man, and belly gunner. From Chicago, IL. Died in the crash of the Green Hornet
Clarence Douglas	Waist gunner, engineer. From Virginia. Severely injured during the bombing of Funafuti and was out of the war.

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Character	Description
Robert Mitchell	Navigator, nose gunner. From Illinois. Died in the crash of the Green Hornet.
Ray Lambert	Tail gunner. From Maryland. Wounded in the bombing of Funafuti. Hospitalized for 5 months.
Harry Brooks	Radio man, waist gunner. From Michigan. Died during the bombing of Funafuti.
Charlton Hugh Cuppernell	Co- pilot. From California. Died in the crash of the Green Hornet.
Russell Phillips	"Phil". Pilot. From Indiana. He is Louie's WWII co-survivor of the Green Hornet's crash and of being Japanese POWs; he says he will never fly a plane again. Married Cecy Perry.
Stanley Pillsbury	From Maine. Top turret gunner, engineer. 22 years old. He's the sharpshooter who hit the Japanese Zero when it came to finish off Superman. He saves the plane and ultimately everyone on board, for they all return back to their WWII base with only one casualty. Received leg injury during the bombing of Funafuti.
Francis McNamara	Sgt., Tail gunner. Mac eats the only food supply (chocolate) on the raft and redeems himself by saving Phil and Louie from the sharks. He does not survive after 33 days in the raft after the crash of the Green Hornet.

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Compiled by Nancy Deaton
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