



Dunkirk Crescendo

Bodie Thoene, Brock Thoene

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As spring 1940 unfolds in Paris, war is inevitable. AP journalist Josephine Marlow is asked to undertake a dangerous journey back into the borders of the reich--just when the Führer is gathering his forces for another invasion. If she is successful, a child will live. If not, he will die. And many other children, too.

French colonel Andre Chardon knows that the undefeated Führer will not hold back his Blitzkrieg long from France. But the plan of attack revealed in a coded message is so audacious that no one believes Andre. Whom can he convince? Who will have the courage to act before thousands of innocents are slaughtered? And is a miracle at Dunkirk Harbor possible?

Dunkirk Crescendo Details

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Brandi says

I could not even tell you for sure if she wrapped up all the story lines. There were too many to keep up with. And nothing at all about the characters we started the series with, which is very frustrating. Like with the last one, there were so many different characters that she didn't have enough time to give any of them any depth. Mac in particular seemed to just bounce around to provide a witness to whatever battle she wanted to talk about. And despite it taking up so much of the book, I felt like she still didn't quite make me feel the desperation of the situation at Dunkirk. It all felt very happenstance, like everyone just happened to end up there, no coordination required.

One thing it lacked was any sense of what people in charge (Churchill, for example, whom she's used heavily throughout the series) were thinking. I literally spent the entire second half of the book wondering where the RAF was and finally had to turn to Wikipedia.

I also think these books NEED a section at the end that talks about the real life inspiration for the characters. The thing with the school of cadets really happened. I felt like the two American sisters running the orphanage sounded based in reality, but couldn't find anything to confirm it by googling. From previous books, I know Samuel Orde was based on a real (and really bizarre) person, and I wonder if what happened between Victoria and ... um, Moshe's brother, whose name I can't remember ... was based on an actual incident.

And that also reminds me ... some of the small incidents she describes were interesting or slightly amusing, but had nothing to do contribute to the plot. Which again makes me think that she was drawing from actual accounts or oral histories -- they had the feeling of something included just because it was bizarre and true. And if that's what they are, those also seem like they could some reference or attribution.

And one last thing -- there seemed to be curiously little God in this book. Which ... I thought some of the ways she inserted God in the earlier books was a little contrived and awkward. But there were only two characters (and they were from the same storyline and NOT at Dunkirk at all) who even mentioned him. Maybe it was too hard to bring up God in a situation that makes you wonder where he is, like Dunkirk? But she's done it really well in concentration camps It comes across as either a bit cowardly or really weirdly forgetful. Heh. Then again, none of the other major characters from the earlier books made the cut, either.

Danni says

I finished a series. All though out all the books I felt bad for the children because they were completely helpless in what happened to them.

Kellye says

The series was very well-researched, but it had lots of ups and downs from a reader's perspective. Much of it was dry or dense, and it was extremely frustrating that the authors kept introducing so many characters throughout. And the last 3 books were initially part of a different series, so they introduce completely new characters, without any real closure for the original characters from the first 4-5 books. Difficult to follow a lot of the time. Okay, but would not recommend strongly.

Margaret says

I really enjoyed this book. The storyline was engaging and the history interesting. Still a little peeved that the authors completely disregarded the central characters from the first 7 books of this series! But by now I'd read so far that they had drifted from my mind a bit, so that this was no longer as centrally frustrating as it was in book 8.

les says

A wonderful series.

A series with lot of reality , truth and meaning. A good 'companion' for the Zion Chronicles. It is also history in everyday language.

Jeni Enjaian says

Like two other books that I reviewed recently, I waited too long to write this review. I think I'll stick with what I've said about the other two books in the final trio of this series. It's good but the character development feels a bit stunted, most likely because this book was originally meant to be the last third of a single book, not a stand alone book. There are a few too many characters in my opinion but I enjoyed reading about each of them. I think the events in this book could have made at least two different books that focused on a smaller number of characters. Once again, I'll mention that the historiography is fairly accurate, as accurate as a work of historical fiction can be. This book, like the others, will remain on my shelf. I also, even though I'm not the biggest fan of the series, recommend the books. They are lightyears ahead of most other works of Christian fiction. (I still hate that I have to make that qualification. Christian fiction should and could be much, much better than what it is.)

Irene says

In the spring of 1940, people wondered, Is Hitler unstoppable? Will the Nazis take over the world, reshaping the world for their twisted purposes? Will life ever be the same? As the spring unfolds in Paris war was inevitable. AP journalist Josephine Marlow is asked to undertake a dangerous journey back into the borders of the Reich just when the Führer is gathering his forces for another invasion. If she is successful, a child will live. If not, he will die. And many other children too.

French colonel André Chardon knows that the undefeated Führer will not hold back from France. But the plan of attack revealed in a coded message is so audacious that no one believes André. Whom can he convince? Someone must have the courage to act before thousands of innocents are slaughtered. And is a miracle at Dunkirk Harbor possible?

Barbara says

Brock and Bodie Thoene always produce a pleasing mix of Christian fiction and historical fact. This is a "director's cut" which contains portions of their previous book, "Twilight of Courage," along with new material. The entire Zion Covenant series is excellent; this particular book does have a little bit more military description and a little less personal storyline about each character. The descriptions of WW II are excellent and, in general, very exciting, but there are a couple of points where the plot drags a bit. Not for long, however; you will soon be turning pages quickly to see what transpires.

Hanna says

Unfortunately, I have to agree with other reviews on this book. I didn't expect everyone's storyline to be wrapped up, since there are subsequent series, but most storylines were left completely wide open. Not only that, but a lot was rushed. It was unlike many of the previous books, where days stretched out, because everything happened at once. Perilous situations were glossed over--one moment Andre has almost drowned, the next he's going back to the French Army.

Which leads me to my next point. There wasn't much emotion written into the characters, especially Andre. All this action and fighting were swirling around, but it was written more like a non-fiction. Andre and David both had this happen to them. Their thoughts were barely mentioned. The courage of the men at Dunkirk was emphasized, yet I didn't know exactly who they were, and where they were. The pictures being painted just weren't very clear.

Then there were the new characters, and I guessed I missed their introductions, because I didn't know who they were, except for Sepp. I assumed they were all Captain Chardon's cadets. But suddenly there was this POV of Raymond, and I didn't have a clue who Raymond was. Usually I can follow all of the characters in Thoene books, but not this time.

Despite all that, I did enjoy this book. I can't not like a Zion Covenant book. But I'm glad I finished this series. Onto the Zion Chronicles!

Lauren Owen says

Dunkirk Crescendo by Brock and Bodie Thoene is yet another captivating novel by the couple. At the beginning of the story, Josephine Marlow found herself able to admit that she is in love with Andre Chardon. He finally spoke openly of his daughter, Juliette, whom he had never met. As the threats of war increased in Luxembourg Andre's desperation to get his daughter into safety likewise heightened, even if it meant going through her obstinate grandfather. Mr. Snow resented Andre strongly after Andre impregnated his daughter and because of fear did not marry her. His daughter had died at the hands of the Nazis and Mr. Snow refused to let his only living remnant of daughter go to the hands of the man he blamed for her death. Andre was frantic to get her safe.

Meanwhile, Major Horst von Bockman began to work with the Underground Railroad. One day, he brought a Jewish baby, Yacov Lubetkin, home to save Yacov's life. Through a chain of events, Josephine Marlow received the child. She began walking with an elderly woman, several disabled children, Yacov and a milk cow for days to safety at Ecole. The children and women grew tired and they had nowhere to turn.

Everywhere they went bombs seemed to follow. Was there no escape for these children?

David Meyer and Badger Cross had been longtime enemies. They were on the same side but rubbed each other the wrong ways. Then one day, Badger was flying and an error occurred, leaving him completely blind. David came to his aid and they began traveling by foot back to England. Badger was convinced that at any moment he was going to die. He continually told David he had “seen his last birthday”. As they would find a place to stay, a new bombing raid would begin above their heads, threatening their lives.

Thoene did an excellent job at creating suspense and foreshadowing in this book. Her details gripped the reader, keeping anyone at the edge of their seat. The book is the ninth and final book of the Zion Chronicles Series. Though it was the final book, it brought no resolve. Characters she created in past books she did not mention in this one. It left the reader wondering why they spent so much time and money on a series that was absent of conclusion. Thoene also focused more on description of battles than of characters, making the book much less compelling.

Bodie’s writing and Brock’s knowledge in history made this book an excellent read. Anyone with a desire to learn more of the Holocaust or a love for fiction would enjoy this story. The characters are well described and the story detailed. Thoene truly created an excellent mood in the book. One truly feels like they entered World War II when they read *Dunkirk Crescendo*.

Colleen Atherton says

The Zion covenant series is one of the best historical fiction series on pre-WWII Germany and Europe I have ever read. When I read historical fiction, I often look up information that is given in the story to check for accuracy. You will not be disappointed in these books if you like historical fiction that is researched and accurate.

Natalie Vellacott says

I originally read this series in 2012 and enjoyed it. However, the final three books (including this one) are referred to as "Director's cuts." They are in a different style and read more like a journalistic account of events rather than a novel. The character's personalities have been lost; I didn't even bother to read the final two books of the series when I re-read them in 2017!

Ellison says

Last book in the series and no resolution with the characters who started the series?? Come on! Nine books - nine very good, informative, moving books. And I find out that to get the rest of the story on many of the main characters, I have to embark on another long series. Whew...that is very frustrating, given I've already invested so many hours, but I think I'll do it because it really is a fantastic series through which I've learned a lot about the build up to WW 2 and the settlement of Israel.

Gerda Stroud says

Not to be missed

Gloria says

The very last book in the series ends with the evacuation of soldiers from Dunkirk. Lots of action. The plot still follows characters we have known in the prior books. It is revealed why certain characters were introduced in the second book.

It is a quite thrilling story, but that is because Germany began the invasion - instead of WAITING for it and French pride in the Maginot Line. The WAITING was known as the Phony War. In this book, the Germany army is tearing through the Netherlands, Belgium surrendered, and Luxembourg was swallowed as the forces pushed just north of where the Maginot Line ended through the "impassible" hills.

The last comment I will make on the last three books as a whole is that there is a study guide at the end of each book. The books are smaller than their counterparts of the first six books. I do not think the study guide is necessary and I never use them because I want to be able to re-read books sometimes without the author going "Look here and here's what I want the reader to take from it".
