



# Destiny

*Don Brown*

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## **Destiny** Don Brown

Three men. Three armies. One letter. One destiny.

When World War II hits Walter Brewer's family in the worst possible way, he is torn between his love for two women, his family, and his country. A rural postal carrier in his hometown of Jamesville, North Carolina, Walter struggles to look after his brother's wife and family as well as his own while his brother is stationed at Pearl Harbor. He has no idea his life is about to become entwined with a Nazi officer and a Royal Navy commando.

Heinrick Schultz is haunted by his participation in Kristallnacht against the local Jews, but he is honored when called to serve in the German Special Forces. He leaves his wife and two daughters at home to serve in Africa under General Rommel.

Darwin McCloud strives to make his father, a Royal Navy captain, proud. After participating in the invasion at Dieppe, Darwin's true character is evident to all.

The duty falls on Walter to deliver a letter that will tie all three families together. Will Walter survive his mission over France as a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne on D-Day, or is the ultimate sacrifice Walter's destiny?

This much-anticipated prequel to Don Brown's acclaimed Navy Justice series is packed with the ravages of love and war, romance and family, and ultimately the power of faith.

## **Destiny Details**

Date : Published September 1st 2014 by Mountainview Books, LLC (first published August 18th 2014)

ISBN : 9781941291061

Author : Don Brown

Format : Paperback 462 pages

Genre : Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction, War



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# From Reader Review Destiny for online ebook

## Marianne says

5 stars \*\*\*\*\* out of five

Historical Fiction

With another war being fought across the ocean, and with the fact that it is 100 years since the First World War, it seems like every bookstore has books on war. So why would I choose one over the other? Well, first of all, I like to try authors that I have not read before, and although Don has a series of novels published called The Navy Justice series as well as one called The Pacific Rim series, I have not picked up anything by him. Then, I found out that this book is actually a type of prequel to Treason (of the Navy Justice series) and had actually been written, though not published first, I thought this was the perfect time to start. Don writes a compelling story of a young mail carrier who wants to do his part for his country in the war of 1938. Through the characters eyes, we learn so much about what made the world we live in today, the hardships, the friendships forged and the reasoning especially of the young Germans. Well done, and I really enjoyed it. I'll be looking for Treason to continue the story, albeit two generations later.

Thank you to don Brown, Mountainview Books, LLC, and Fred at the Book Club Network for the opportunity to read this great novel. I received the Ebook free in exchange for an honest review. A positive critique was not required. The opinions stated are my own.

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## Janice Garey says

Review Title: Go with Destiny/Read this book! (review of Destiny by Don Brown)

Reviewer: Janice S. Garey

\*\*\*\*\*5 Stars

Destiny is a mighty story that encompasses the ways that war affects individuals and families. Specifically, the book tracks several families and singles through the beginning of WWII through the end of the war and a bit beyond. The characters are well developed with the good showing their flaws and the not as good showing their potential to be better with maturity bolstered with new found trust in God.

Without detailing the story, my take-away value from this book is that war creates an alternate experience of life where people make quick life and death decisions that can haunt them for the rest of their lives. The pressures at home and in battle require inordinate strength and stamina, both physically and emotionally. I saw in this book that war demands weak people to be trained to become tough. Those who start out tough are forced to connect with weaknesses within themselves that they did not realize they possessed. I appreciated seeing these facets of personality developed in the characters.

Because this is Christian fiction, you will not find the typical coarse language that spills out in the military. I was relieved to get the story without all the profanity. Other than that, I found the book to be very realistic. By necessity, because of the time period covered, the book is long, but it is never dull. The length gives a chance to develop several themes such as choosing between love of family and duty to one's nation; choosing to honor one's marriage vows and how Christian beliefs foster the ability to do that; and, choosing to honor one's parents even though past differences have severed the relationship. On the grand scale, the overriding theme is redemption of relationships through sacrifice, on the human level as well as the divine.

I am thankful to the author for writing and sharing this story. I am thankful to bookfun.org for giving me the book in exchange for reading it and posting an honest review. Truly, this is an excellent historical fiction book. My husband enjoyed it as well, and it is a great book for a couple to share by reading it aloud.

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### **Inger says**

I chose this book, because some of it takes place in my hometown of Jamesville, NC. Even though the story takes place during WWII, I am very familiar with many of the places that Brown describes in Plymouth, Jamesville, Williamston, and "Little Washington," because many of those places are still there. The story line is fantastic, and I love that it is Christian fiction, but not over-the-top so much so that it deters people from reading it. It's very relatable to Christians and non-Christians alike. I can clearly see that Brown has a military background, and he is very familiar with WWII and military jargon in general. There are three different characters, from three different countries, who are all enlisted. One is from the US, one is from Scotland, and one is from Germany. I think that my favorite character is Heinrick who made the greatest and most difficult change from a German Nazi officer to...well you'll see if you read it. :-). The book is nearly flawless, and the story flows beautifully. The writing is simple, yet intriguing in my opinion. The only issue I have with the book is that Brown failed to include any African Americans in his story line. I know that the US was very segregated at the time, so maybe he chose to not include any to avoid offending readers or he just didn't know how to fit African Americans into the story line without being harshly realistic or completely unrealistic. Either way, there are many African Americans in Jamesville, and especially in Plymouth even back then, because my mother was born in 1947, and the beloved doctor who appears in the book, Dr. Ernest Papineau, helped to deliver her and was her PCP right on until the 1980's. I actually met him once when I was a little girl in the 1980's. My dad's entire family is from Plymouth, NC. Anyway, other than that, the book was superb!!

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### **Shirley says**

Destiny  
by Don Brown

Publ: Mountainview Books c.2014  
Series: Navy Justice - prequel

What do an American Army officer, a Royal Navy commando, and a German SS officer have to do with each other? How are their lives tied together? Of the three only two of them met in life, then only briefly. But God used the willingness of two of them to touch the life of the other and ultimately the lives of his

family.

We are introduced to these three men and their families beginning in the early 1930's. We then follow them through the years of World War II.

Heinrick Shultz is the German. He is married and the father of two daughters. He is ruled by his fear of what will happen to him and his family as he crosses the Nazi Party. His fear of the Party takes him to a place in General Erwin Rommel's senior staff.

Darwin McCloud is the son of Captain Edward McCloud and Baroness Juliana McCloud. He is an actor.

Darwin is a devout Christian who wonders what his part in the war can be since he is a pacifist and a Christian. Having never met the expectations of his military career father, when he decides to sign on for Naval Commando school he doesn't tell his father and asks his mother to not tell him. Since his parents are divorced this isn't hard to do. Before he goes into combat he is given a copy of the Bible in German to carry with him in the hopes that he will be able to witness to any Germans that the Lord leads into his path.

Walter Brewer is an American mail carrier in rural North Carolina. He is married with 4 children. He is exempted from service because of his job. As the war progresses he loses his exemption because of the need for more men. Because his brother was killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941 and Walter is helping raise his brother's children as well as his own, a well-meaning family friend feels led to help him with a medical deferment. Walter doesn't feel right about this, tears up the letters and goes to war. As his life in the Army progresses Walter finds himself in OCS and training to be one of the first paratroopers in the 101st Airborne.

Darwin is killed in a military assault on the French coastline. After his death Heinrick finds the German Bible on his body as he processes the scene. Against protocol he keeps the Bible.

Walter parachutes into France as one of the first wave before the soldiers hit the beaches at Normandy on D-Day. With assistance from members of the French Resistance he takes out the communications hub manned by Heinrick, killing him in the process. One of the members of the Resistance takes a letter from Heinrick's body and gives it to Walter the next morning.

Because of the nature of war and a surprising event that sends Walter rushing stateside, he forgets about the letter for awhile. After he finds it and gets it translated he is unexpectedly allowed to give the letter to Heinrick's widow. It is also arranged for him to meet Capt. McCloud and Juliana McCloud and tell them of their son's influence.

This book is an up-close look at the lives of three very different men and the lives led by diverse people in a turbulent time in world history. It paints a realistic picture of a time many of us alive now didn't live through. The picture of war is not painted with a light hand nor is it so graphic that the story of the people is lost in the story of war.

You see the hand of God move in the lives of Christians and non-Christians. You see His care for all men. This book will touch you with poignant moments, make you laugh at the antics of children, encourage you that even in the worst of times God is in control and entertain you with a well laid out story.

I was provided a copy of this book by the publisher through The Book Club Network for my unbiased review.

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### **Derinda Babcock says**

DESTINY is author Don Brown's prequel to the Navy Justice Series. The story is powerful and moving as it follows three men whose lives are turned upside down by World War II. Though they are soldiers from three different armies, American, British, and German, their lives have been divinely orchestrated to intertwine and to impact many others.

Walter Brewer, a small-town mail carrier loses his brother when the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor. He feels responsible to care for not only his wife and four children, but his brother's two children and wife. Tensions lurk under the surface, because Ellie, his brother's wife, was his ex-fiancee. With eight other people to care for, the draft letter Walter receives is a shock. He is torn between caring for his family and fighting for his country. He makes his decision. Because of his abilities, he moves from the rank of lowly soldier to captain of paratroopers. Under heavy German attack, the plane is hit as Walter and his men prepare to jump into Nazi-occupied territory in France. He alone of his men survives. He is picked up by members of the French Resistance. His goal is to knock out communication centers and disrupt Nazi supply lines in preparation for the invasion of Europe by Allied forces.

Darwin McCloud, the pacifist son of Baroness Juliana McCloud and British Destroyer Commander Edward McCloud, skirmishes with internal pain. He wants his father's recognition and love, but not at the cost of his faith. When he reconciles his own conflict between being a Christian and being a soldier, he proves that a man only five-feet-four-inches tall can overcome adversity to the point that he earns the right to wear the insignia of an elite British Commando. He and his team are sent to take Dieppe, France, from the Nazis who are entrenched and waiting.

Heinrick Schultz is given the opportunity to prove his loyalty to Adolf Hitler's Nazi party. Though he is given tasks that turn his stomach and bother his conscience, he rises in rank and is rewarded for his faithfulness by being assigned as intelligence officer to military genius Erwin Rommel. His duties with The Desert Fox keep him in the North African desert, miles and months away from his wife and daughters. Time has passed, but he is still haunted by a ghost from his past. When Rommel is finally pressed out of Africa by Generals Patton and Montgomery, Henrick is stationed in France to man a critical communication center. Knowing that he is now on the same continent as his family is little comfort. Allied forces continue to push the Germans back, though the process is slow and deadly.

The first words on the back cover of this book truly encompasses its theme: Three men. Three armies. One letter. One destiny. I received this book from Book Club Network in exchange for my honest review.

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## **ChrisGA says**

This is a prequel of the Navy Justice Series by this author. It follows the lives of an English actor, an American mailman and a German factory worker in the 1930s and 1940s. We meet them at home with their families and agonize with them as they are drawn into the war years. Each man has his struggles over fear, guilt over leaving his loved ones behind, and the emotional trauma of killing in the name of their country. The men are changed by their experiences but so are their families. I am looking forward now to reading the Navy Justice books waiting on my bookshelf.

This is historical fiction so there are many military details that drew in my nonfiction-only husband; but as a woman, I most enjoyed the human frailties and inner conflicts of the characters. I especially enjoyed seeing how the war changed Ellie, Darwin, and Billy. The hardship of leaving the comfort of home for the harsh reality of the battlefield is poignantly portrayed. Darwin's counseling session with his priest was a humorous episode of miscommunicating and mistaken assumptions. I enjoyed this story and found myself worrying about the characters as if they were family and mourned the losses. The ending tied together all three storyline in a very satisfying manner.

I received this book through The Book Club Network, but the opinions expressed are my own.

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## **Lynda Edwards says**

Destiny by Don Brown really tells us three separate stories that take place during World War II; told from an American perspective, a British viewpoint, and a German storyline in different segments, at first I was wondering how it would all connect, especially as the men have very brief meetings about midway through the novel. Once the author linked them all together in a beautiful picture, however, not fully revealed until the last few chapters, I thought it was a nice parallel to life in that we never know how our lives will change the lives of those who seem so far removed from our sphere of influence.

Our primary character is Walter Brewer, a man of honor and integrity. We are also introduced to his growing family over the years, as well as his brother and his family. The British perspective comes from Darwin McCloud, a young man struggling to find his place in the world. The German protagonist is Heinrick Schultz and he is largely an unlikeable character, but with a few redeeming qualities that prevent him from becoming a caricature.

One of the reasons I like this book is that it did a good job of humanizing who we perceive to be the enemy. Take Heinrick, for example: at the beginning of the novel, he attacks who he has been told is his enemy. But something happens in that attack against a Jewish family that changes who he is because he can now relate to his "enemy." In the same way, we learn to relate to Heinrick as he grows and changes through the novel, and he is no longer just a Nazi, but a human swept up in events beyond his control as he struggles to figure out what the right thing really is.

The other thing I really appreciated was the strong message of redemption, that no matter the horrible things we have done, we are never too far gone for God to redeem. And He will do it in ways that will surprise those who are watching, maybe even drawing those spectators to Himself as well! There is one very good theological discussion between Darwin and a pastor as he seeks counsel about how being a military man and his Christian faith can be compatible, and as part of a military family, I found it a beautiful passage.

I would recommend this novel to fans of Dan Brown, especially of his Navy Justice series, which this is a prequel to, and to fans of historical fiction that takes place in World War II. This would be a great book for men as well, as the romance portion is not overdone, merely part of the lives taking place within its pages.

I received a complimentary copy of this book through The Book Club Network ([bookfun.org](http://bookfun.org)) in exchange for this honest review.

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## **Shannon says**

This is definitely one of the best books I have read in a long time. I have always enjoyed stories about war time, as it gives us a chance to see and feel a little of what those who went through those times might have experienced, but this book was so much more.

This story is not just a story, but stories within stories, and all knitted together extremely well. There are

three major characters all from different countries: USA and the Brewer brothers, Walter and Billy, Britain-Darwin McCloud son of divorced parents, British Destroyer Commander Edward McCloud and Baroness Juliana McCloud and lastly, Germany-Heinrick Schultz.

We get to meet the families prior to being called to duty, feel their joys, their pains and take the characters into our hearts as we read on. It's not long and you will feel as you are sitting at the supper table, the tension between old lovers, the struggle to do the right thing, and more.

As each heads off to do his duty, we again are met with emotions and situations that make you feel as you are right there. On a ship deck all alone, doing what you can against all odds, killing in the name of Adolph Hitler and dealing with the emotions especially when one hits so close to home, needing to stand up and be counted as one whom can be trusted, relied upon, wanting to be loved and recognized by father, but not at the cost of his faith in Jesus Christ, and then some.

The author did an incredible job with the history of WW2 and the different battles faced, allies, and with such incredible detail you feel as if you are right there.

This is one book that I struggled with because I didn't want to put it down, but also knew that it would have to end and didn't want that to happen either.

This is a 5 star book in my opinion, and I would highly recommend to any one whom likes history, but also to any whom enjoy a well written book. This definitely is a book worthy of your time and attention. Don't believe me? Pick it up for yourself today and check it out. I dare you!

I was given this book in exchange for an honest review by bookfun.org.

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### **Kimberly says**

#### **Three Lives – One Destiny**

This historical military fiction follows the lives of 3 men during World War II – 3 very different men, but tied together in ways that they could never know. Although this is a work of fiction, the details and story line make you experience what war is like, not only for the men fighting but for the families left behind. I loved the similarities that came to light between these 3 men that are so very different and are fighting for different reasons. It shows how God draws us all together as one and although we might have different beliefs or live in different cultures, families still deal with the same issues and struggles. I don't want to give away any of the story line, but be assured that Mr. Brown has packed lots of twists and turns into the story to keep you reading. Anyone with an interest in military stories or great dramatic human interest stories will love this book. Although it is a fiction, I felt like I got a better understanding of what my own family must have experienced during World War II. There are lessons to be learned from those years for our present day society, if only we would listen. Embrace your own life and the destiny that God has prepared for you. I received this book from BookFun.org and Mountain View books in exchange for my honest opinion.

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### **Lisa Johnson says**



Title: Destiny

Author: Don Brown <http://donbrownbooks.com/>

Pages: 462

Year: 2014

Publisher: Mountainview Books

Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/Destiny-Don-Bro...>

Three men, three countries and many readers will get to journey and discover what holds them all together. As I read, I couldn't imagine the many families who lived through the beginning of WWII. For me, the novel brings to the forefront the many lives affected during the war, along with afterwards. Walter is mailman in a small town and recently married when the war is brought to the shores of the United States on December 7th by the Japanese. Heinrick is a married man with two young girls who works at a factory in Germany when he joins a group who seeks revenge for the assassination of a government official. Darwin is a young man who longs to be an actor and wants to simply enjoy the pleasures of the stage and success.

The action takes place on several continents and readers get to follow the journey of these three young men. Never did these three young men ever think their lives would take the course they have due to the war. It also brings them to a place where they consider their eternal destination as battle rages around them along with seeing death constantly stare them in the face.

Now, on the eve of the Normandy Invasion, each character is very aware that death may truly await them, so they place their thoughts on paper. Will these last words change the hearts or minds of not just their comrades, but more so the enemy they are fighting against? Part of the tale focuses on their families they leave at home and how they try to deal with the fear they may never see their loved ones again. How do the wives keep going while raising children without worrying constantly about their loved ones?

The audience will truly fall in love with each story these characters share. At times, readers will get a glimpse of how a particular character is thinking or feeling, which brings a point of view to the story that otherwise wouldn't be revealed. I loved how Walter works through or talks through the issues of his heart or his thoughts. I believe the author makes these characters leap off the page by the description of the scene set for the characters to act out. I lost myself very easily in the fictional tale mainly because it seemed so real or at the very least a possible way of an outcome to a problem.

Don't miss reading Destiny as it is the prequel to the Jag novel series written by Don Brown! Very well done!

My rating is 5+ stars.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention it on my blog. Regardless, I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255. "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Other reviews can be read at <http://seekingwithallyurheart.blogspot...> . Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...>

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## Meagan Myhren-bennett says

Destiny

By Don Brown

Destiny opens in 1938 on a night when the world once again found itself on the brink of an all encompassing war. We are then taken back to 1931 - Walter Brewer is returning home with his new wife. World War II has

yet to make rumblings of its coming threat to America or Jamesville, North Carolina.

Destiny follows the lives of 3 different men and the paths that their lives follow as war slowly engulfs the world in its fever. Walter Brewer is a simple country postal worker who is about to experience war and its costs. Meanwhile in England, young Darwin McCloud is faced with his desire to make a difference and earn his father's respect while dealing with his pacifist ideals. And then there is Heinrich Schultz a German who is among the early members of the Nazi party.

Destiny covers a period of nearly 15 years - years in which war links 3 lives in ways no one would expect. And these links would have a profound and lasting effect that would span national boundaries and touch many lives beyond.

This book is a prequel to Don Brown's Navy Justice series and introduces us to Zack Brewer's grandfather - a man of honor and integrity who finds truths and strengths within himself that he never expected to need.

Fans of World War II historical fiction will love this book and fans of Don Brown's previous work will not be disappointed in this step into the past. This is a moving story that will leave you with a greater appreciation for what those who served during this time of uncertainty gave.

I was provided a copy of this book through BookFun/TBCN in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Donna McGinnis says**

This is an amazing and well written historical fiction novel set in WWII. Don has given us insight into how the horrors, fears and struggles affected the lives of the soldiers and their families during these dangerous years of war. His description of the time period and information of military action is very informative. Well written and realistic characters. A story of three men from three countries that involve one letter and one destiny. The author has done a great job in weaving the lives of the three men into a surprising and powerful ending.

Walter Brewer a mail carrier loses his brother in the attack of Pearl Harbor. He is torn between taking care of his family, his brother's family and fighting for his country. Darwin McCloud small in stature but strong in faith wants to gain his father's love and recognition and to earn the right to wear the insignia of a British Commando. Heinrich Schultz is an intelligence officer for the great Rommel and has proved his faithfulness to the Germany army. However he struggles with the tasks he is asked to perform.

Don Brown is a very talented writer. This book is a great read and I highly recommend it. There is so much in this story.

I received a free copy of this book from bookfun.org for my honest opinion and review

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### **Jeanie says**

Destiny, the prequel to The Navy Justice Series by Don Brown, is an impressive novel that shows how men and women of faith can respond to war. The spiritual lessons throughout will stay with and encourage the reader long after reading the last page.

This is a genre that I typically would not read, automatically assuming that it is a book about war by men for

men. In recent months, my appreciation for WWII Christian novels has been kindled, and I am so glad I read this one! While there was much within its pages that I could learn about World War II, it was also a relational novel that might appeal to many women as well as men. There are three primary characters and their families – one German (Nazi), one American, and one British.

Heinrick Schultz and his wife, Ingrid, had two young daughters. He was a factory worker when recruited to work for the Party, killing for the first time on the Night of Broken Glass in Nuremburg. Heinrick believed that he would bring “glory to the Fatherland in service to our Fuhrer”. The young girl who died accidentally as a result of his actions tormented his dreams for years, but could the Lord have plans for him through those dreams?

Walter Brewer and his wife, Jessica had several children. His brother Billy, who married Walter’s first fiancé, Ellie, had two children before he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Both men were good fathers who loved their wives and children. Due to a potential heart problem, Walter could technically have taken a health deferment when he was drafted and had a letter to that effect. Coming from a family history of military service but having a wife and children, could Walter in good conscience take that deferment?

Darwin McCloud was the only child of a Royal Navy Captain and a baroness. Darwin was a devout believer, a student of the scriptures. He wanted to be an actor, and he wanted his divorced parents to get back together. His father wanted him to serve in the Royal Navy, but Darwin was a pacifist and struggled to understand how a Christian could serve in the military and kill the enemies of his country – could he be a Christian and still enter the Royal Navy?

Character developments were excellent! This reader felt as if she had been given a more than a glimpse of these men and their families, their faith (or lack thereof), and the challenges their families faced. With each change of life circumstances, the novel became more and more compelling.

The plot had many unexpected twists. The joys and grief, faith or doubt, and life and death decisions each faced in light of the war was well-defined. While one man served under Hitler and two against, and each came from different countries and backgrounds, World War II had a profound effect on each. The way their lives or the lives of their family members spilled over into the other men’s lives and families was astounding! This novel is about much more than family relationships – it is about the relationship between God and His people, about His will for their lives, and how such varied lives could be intertwined with others for lasting change – including the eternal salvation of a soul.

I highly recommend *Destiny* to adults of any age who appreciate Christian novels about World War II, the decisions and challenges faced as a result of the war, and how those who believe in God respond during wartime. It is an exciting and impressive work, one that shows how the Lord can work all things together for good, even when it doesn’t seem possible. Within its pages are circumstances that can impact the reader’s faith and life long after the last page is finished.

With a grateful heart, I received a copy of this book through the “For Readers Only” group at The Book Club Network, in exchange for my honest review. All opinions are my own, and no monetary compensation was received for this review.

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**Victoria - txangel71 says**

A hard book to put down .....

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## **Robin Willson says**

Excellent book! One of those stories that would really make a great movie that guys and women both love. It's historical fiction set during WW2, with a message of salvation. There's romance throughout the book, but it's not the frilly kind - it's the real kind. Secrets kept, secrets revealed.

And there's an interesting twist to this one. This is told from more than one perspective. It follows the lives of men from different geographical areas and sides of the war - an Englishman, a German and American brothers, how they are pulled into fighting the war and what became of them. Their families are included in the stories; how they cope with the circumstances and all that they face. It goes to England, Scotland, Africa, France, Japan, Germany and America. It also tells of the British invasion in France before Normandy, which I didn't know about. They're all entwined - each has an influence on the other men and their entire families. This was a page turner for me - I had a hard time putting it down. A strong message of faith and redemption follows through, full circle.

Aptly put from the promo for the book: This much-anticipated prequel to Don Brown's acclaimed Navy Justice series is packed with the ravages of love and war, romance and family, and ultimately the power of faith.

I received this book from Mountainview Books LLC and <http://www.bookfun.org> in return for my honest opinion.

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