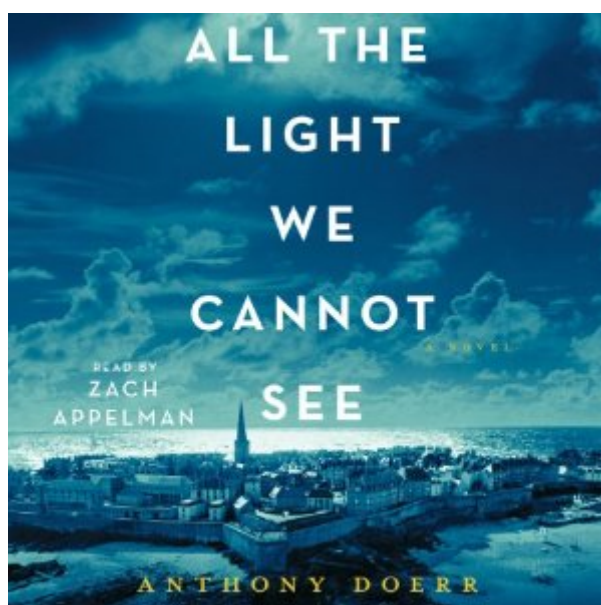


The book was found

All The Light We Cannot See: A Novel



Synopsis

Marie-Laure lives with her father in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where he works as the master of its thousands of locks. When she is six, Marie-Laure goes blind and her father builds a perfect miniature of their neighborhood so she can memorize it by touch and navigate her way home. When she is 12, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure's reclusive great-uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel. In a mining town in Germany, the orphan Werner grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments, a talent that wins him a place at a brutal academy for Hitler Youth, then a special assignment to track the resistance. More and more aware of the human cost of his intelligence, Werner travels through the heart of the war and, finally, into Saint-Malo, where his story and Marie-Laure's converge.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It has been a while since I have found a book that I wanted to read slowly so that I could soak in every detail in hopes that the last page seems to never come. When reading the synopsis of this novel, I never imagined that I would feel so connected to a book where one of the main characters is blind and the other a brilliant young German orphan who was chosen to attend a brutal military academy under Hitler's power using his innate engineering skills. This novel was so much more than the above states. The idiosyncrasies of each individual character are so well defined and expressed in such ways that come across the page almost lyrically. I was invited into the pages and could not

only imagine the atmosphere, but all of my senses were collectively enticed from the very first page until the last. I was so amazed with the way that the author was able to heighten all my senses in a way that I felt like I knew what it was like to be blind. In most well-written books you get of a sense of what the characters look like and follow them throughout the book almost as if you are on a voyage, but with this novel, I could imagine what it was like to be in Marie-Laure's shoes. The descriptives were so beautifully intricate that I could imagine the atmosphere through touch and sound. It was amazing, really. There were so many different aspects of the book that are lived out in separate moments and in different countries that find a way to unite in the end. What impressed me most was that I could have never predicted the outcome. It was as though all cliches were off the table and real life was set in motion. Life outside of books can be very messy and the author stayed true to life but in a magical and symbolic way. I have said in other reviews that just when I think that I have read my last book centered around the Second World War, another seems to pop up. I should emphasize that this book created an image of war in a way that I have never imagined before. I truly got a sense of what it must have been like for children who lived a happy life and then suddenly were on curfew and barely had food to eat. It also showed the side of young children who are basically brainwashed by Nazi leaders and made into animals who seem to make choices that they normally wouldn't in order to survive. And by survive, I mean dodging severe abuse by their own colleagues. This book may haunt me for some time. I can't express enough how beautifully written the pages are. I highly recommend this read as it is my favorite so far for 2014.

ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE is one of the best books you'll read this year. On one hand, the title implies the lessons learned by a young German orphan boy about radio waves. On the other hand, as the author describes it, it's also a metaphorical suggestion that there are countless invisible stories still buried within World War II. Add in a newly blinded French girl who is forced to leave her familiar surroundings, and you'll soon find yourself in literary heaven. The layered meanings run deep in this book. No wonder nearly every advanced review uses the word "intricate" to describe this masterpiece. The German boy and his sister discover an old radio, where they hear science lessons from afar. There are lessons about the brain, sitting inside the darkness of our skull, interpreting light; there are lessons about coal having been plants living millions of years ago, absorbing light, now buried in darkness; lessons about light waves that we cannot see—all applicable as the story unfolds. Readers will appreciate the short, almost lyrical chapters of alternating characters. The author helps by italicizing earlier mentioned quotes and then leaving almost every chapter closing with a message to ponder.

Take for example: "A real diamond is never perfect," "open your eyes and see what you can with them before they close forever," and "the entropy of a closed system never decreases." All of this is explained in a natural way, but never given out in an assuming manner. The story flows and draws your heart into its deep meaning. Having personal connections to both veterans of World War II and members of the blind community, I can attest to the authenticity of this story's writing. Author Anthony Doerr brings out lovely characters, along with their own fascinations: seashell collecting, bird watching, locksmithing, electronics, and geology. The history surrounding these personal stories is real and deep. You will fall in love. The author also includes connections to the song Clair de Lune, the book 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA, and a fictional story about a priceless diamond called the Sea of Flames, whose owner "so long as he keeps it, the keeper of the stone will live forever." I cannot proclaim loud enough how much this book means to me; I have been left awe-inspired. So, thank you to Scribner for making this book available for me to review. It has been an honor.

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Summary of All the Light We Cannot See: A Novel by Anthony Doerr All the Light We Cannot See: A Novel All the Light We Cannot See A Bat Cannot Bat, a Stair Cannot Stare: More about Homonyms and Homophones (Words Are Categorical (Paperback)) ZeroZeroZero: Look at Cocaine and All You See Is Powder. Look Through Cocaine and You See the World. (Penguin History American Life) Day Light, Night Light: Where Light Comes From (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science 2) Can You See What I See?: On a Scary Scary Night: Picture Puzzles to Search and Solve 101 Movies to See Before You Grow Up: Be your own movie critic--the must-see movie list for kids (101 Things) Elephants Cannot Dance! (An Elephant and Piggie Book) "If you could hear what I cannot say": Learning to communicate with the ones you love The Battle of Fredericksburg:: We Cannot Escape History (Civil War Series) Parenting Children with ADHD: 10 Lessons That Medicine Cannot Teach (Lifetools: Books for the General Public) A Power Governments Cannot Suppress The Center Cannot Hold: My Journey Through Madness The Center Cannot Hold Money and Soccer: A Soccernomics Guide: Why Chievo Verona, Unterhaching, and Scunthorpe United Will Never Win the Champions League, Why Manchester ... and Manchester United Cannot Be Stopped Why Art Cannot Be Taught: A Handbook for Art Students What in the World is Going On?: 10 Prophetic Clues You Cannot Afford to Ignore 20 Questions Jehovah's Witnesses Cannot Answer Thomas Kinkade's Cape Light: Because It's Christmas (A Cape Light Novel)

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