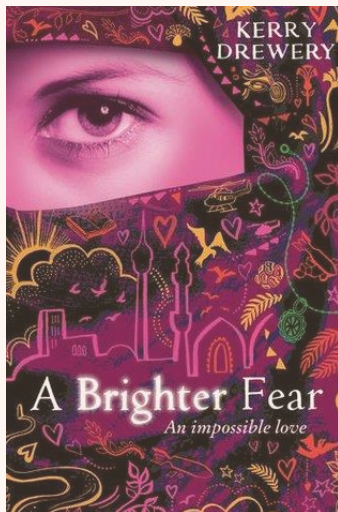


War and Remembrance
By



Storyline thrives on conflict, and perhaps that is one reason why war novels have an enduring interest for many readers. Of course November is the official month for most *Armistice* and *Veterans Day* commemorations, but this has been a year when 'war' has not been relegated to a ceremony of remembrance. Conflict in the Middle East has displaced millions of people, and terrorist violence has brought bloodshed, fear and death to the most civilized of cities. The plight of refugees has been central to both public and political debate, reminding us that wars have a tendency to change not just individual lives – but the borders which define us.



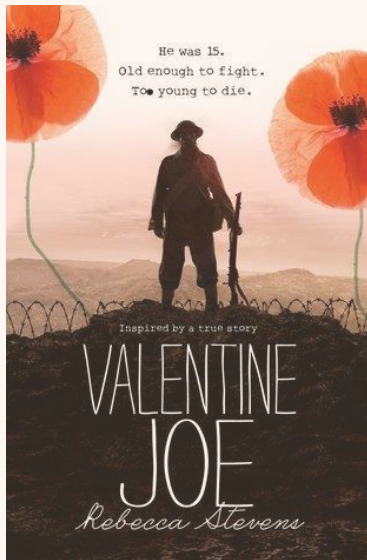
A Brighter Fear
by Kerry Drewery

Lina is 16 years old and she dreams of becoming an architect – but plans for the future are shattered during the American invasion of Baghdad in 2003. Between American bombs and the sectarian violence which follows, Lina's world shrinks to the problems of day-to-day survival. As a minority Christian, she does not have the freedom to express her own beliefs; as a young woman, she risks her safety every time she leaves her uncle's house. Should she save herself, and abandon the country and people she loves, or should she risk staying? This emotionally intense novel is painful to read, but highly recommended for those readers whose own experiences are far removed from active war zones.

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: contemporary; realistic; family; friendship; war; survival; death; Iraq

This book contains violence and emotionally disturbing material.

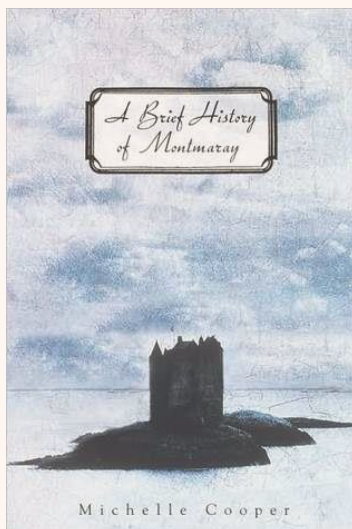


Valentine Joe by Rebecca Stevens

Valentine Joe Strudwick died near Ypres, not long before his 16th birthday; he is considered to be the youngest military casualty of World War I. In this contemporary novel, which skillfully blends fact and fiction, past and present – Rose and her grandfather are visiting the Essex Farm Cemetery when she notices Valentine Joe's gravestone. Through the device of a scrappy stray dog called Tommy, Rose manages to time-travel back to the battleground of Ypres and meet Joe. History really *is* brought back to life in this poignant novel about love and loss.

Reading and interest level: 12+

Genre: contemporary; historical; family; friendship; romance; time-travel; war; death; World War I

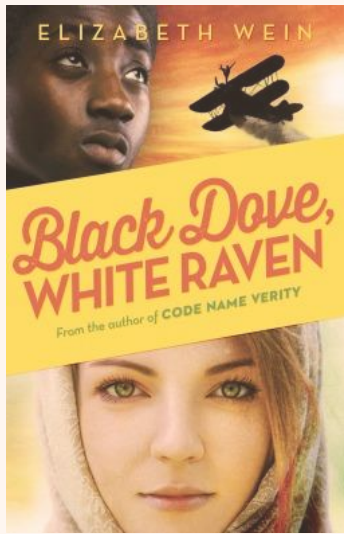


A Brief History of Montmaray by Michelle Cooper

This charming epistolary novel, the first in a trilogy, is the journal of Sophie FitzOsborne – a princess of the tiny kingdom of Montmaray. Although the royal family is living in isolated shabbiness on a rocky island in the Bay of Biscay, the year is 1936 and they are about to be dragged unwillingly into world events. First the Spanish Civil War breaks out, and then some German historians start scouting around Montmaray. Although it's the end of a quiet life, it is the beginning of more adventure than Sophie and her family could have imagined.

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: historical; family; friendship; romance; adventure; war; Spanish Civil War; World War II



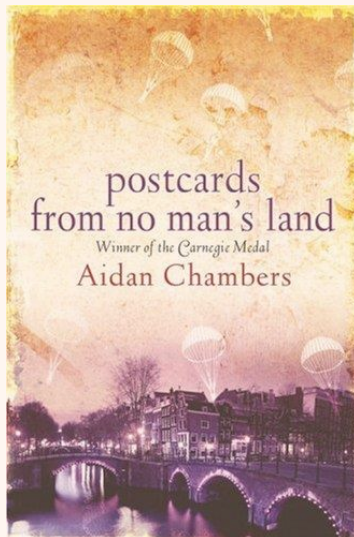
Black Dove, White Raven by Elizabeth Wein

Best friends Delia (Black Dove) and Rhoda (White Raven) are stunt flyers during the 1920s, but the ongoing racism in the southern United States inspires a dream: to emigrate to Ethiopia, the one African country which has never been colonized. After a freak accident kills Delia, Rhoda is determined to keep her partner's dream of equality and freedom alive. Despite the difficulties, Rhoda transplants Delia's son Teo and her own daughter Emilia to a coffee collective in Ethiopia. But as Teo and Emilia come of age, Mussolini's Italian army invades Ethiopia and their family is drawn into the tragic

conflict.

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: historical; friendship; family; culture; war; Ethiopia

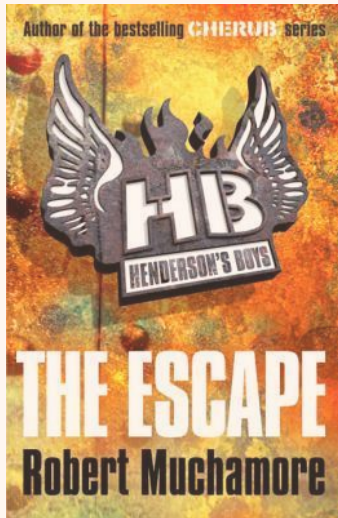


Postcards From No Man's Land by Aidan Chambers

Jacob grew up hearing stories about his war-hero grandfather who was wounded in the Battle of Arnhem as the Allies tried to push the occupying Germans out of the Netherlands. Now Jacob has made his first solo trip to Amsterdam, to attend the 50 year commemoration of the battle and to meet the family of Geertrui – the young Dutch girl who had nursed his English grandfather during the war. But as Geertrui prepares to die, she reveals a secret from the war years – one that will affect not only her family, but Jacob's as well.

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: contemporary; realistic; historical; friendship; family; romance; war; death; LGBT; World War II



The Escape (Henderson's Boys, #1)

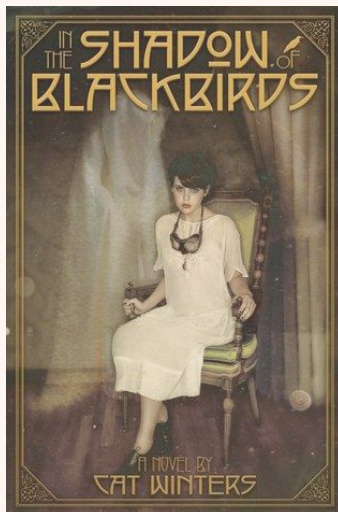
by Robert Muchamore

In June 1940, millions of French civilians are fleeing Paris in order to avoid Hitler's army – including British salesman Digby Clark and his children Rosie and Paul. Clark holds the blueprints to a new wireless invention, and the Germans are determined to get their hands on them. As the Clarks attempt to escape to the unoccupied coastline, they are followed not only by German agents – but also a British spy called Charles Henderson and a young French orphan who becomes mixed up in the chase.

Reading and interest level: 12+

Genre: historical; action; adventure; war; World War II

This book contains violence, a few instances of strong language and some emotionally disturbing material.



In the Shadow of Blackbirds

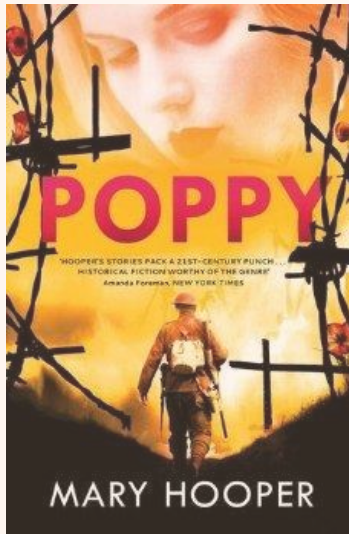
by Cat Winters

After her father is arrested for his pacifist work, Mary Shelley Black is sent to San Diego to live with her aunt. For a brief afternoon, Mary Shelley is reunited with her childhood love Stephen – but soon after, he is shipped over to Europe to fight in the trenches. As the war enters its final months, an influenza pandemic brings widespread death to both soldiers and civilians. A world in mourning becomes obsessed with signs of life after death, but despite her disdain for the popular séances and spiritual photography of the time, Mary Shelley finds herself being haunted by a tortured spirit. This atmospheric, haunting novel captures the anxiety and grief of the terrible year of 1918.

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: historical; fantasy; paranormal; horror; mystery; romance; war; death; PTSD; World War I; influenza pandemic

This book contains violence and emotionally disturbing material.



Poppy (Poppy, #1)

by Mary Hooper

Although World War I may be primarily associated with trench warfare and the huge number of casualties and wounded, a great deal of social change was also a direct result of the war. The historical duet of *Poppy* and *Poppy in the Field* touches on these issues, and many others, through the life of a young nurse. At the beginning of the war, Poppy is 'in service' on a countryside estate; after training as a VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) nurse, she works at a military hospital in Southampton. In this coming-of-age story, Poppy experiences friendship and romance, but most of all an intimate experience of the emotional and physical suffering of war.

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: historical; family; friendship; romance; war; death; World War I



Testament of Youth

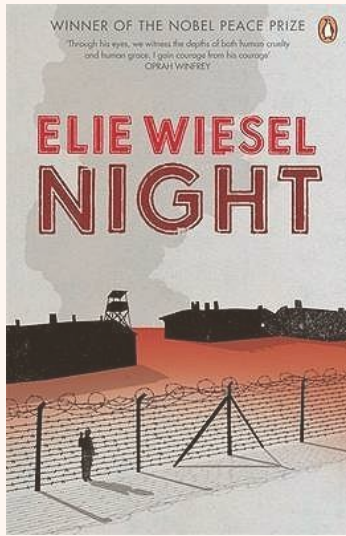
by Vera Brittain

In this famous memoir, Brittain recounts the experience of being a VAD nurse during World War I – and losing her brother, fiancée and family friends to the devastation of trench warfare. This first-hand account of a lost generation has inspired many other writers – including YA authors Mary Hooper and Linda Newbery.

Reading and interest level: 16+

Genre: autobiography; memoir; historical; family; friendship; romance; war; death; World War I

This book contains emotionally disturbing material.



Night

by Elie Wiesel

This memoir – or ‘deposition’, as Wiesel preferred to describe it – is one of the most famous and enduring accounts of life and death in a German concentration camp during World War II. Despite the loss of everything (country, family, faith) that had defined him, Wiesel’s experiences go to the heart of the human desire for survival. Incredibly moving and powerful.

Reading and interest level: 16+

Genre: autobiography; memoir; family; war; survival; World War II

This book contains violence and emotionally disturbing material.

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Kerry Drewery. "And I wished for the chance to meet properly again, where we could pretend he wasn't a soldier, where we could be ourselves, and my head dreamed of scenarios where impossible things do happen. And time ticked on. The weeks and months disappearing behind me. My life disappearing while I waited; to see Steve, to decide if I should leave Iraq, to find the courage to go. But the question of Mama never left my head and when I thought about leaving, I felt heavy with guilt. I should stay. A Brighter Fear is the story of Lina, a bright, young girl, living in Baghdad under the reign of Al-Qaeda. Her mother, taken 3 years before, is not around, and her father has to join them for a job, seeing as they are Christians. * *Then, one day, her father is shot and killed whilst working as an interpreter." A Brighter Fear is a story of love, life, fear and hope. I did enjoy it, although it made me terribly angry at war, and how it affects innocent people, like Lina's mother and father. Fear was never discussed, because fear was constant; you lived in it and it lived in you. Back then, before the war and the madness it brought, my papa would've been shocked to hear me speak like this." The sun was bright on my eyes and the wind blew around my clothes. I'll sketch the buildings while they stand, I thought, the people while they breathe, and the city while it lives. And I wandered around alone, stopping here and there, sketching things that caught my eye, things I wanted to capture while they still existed.