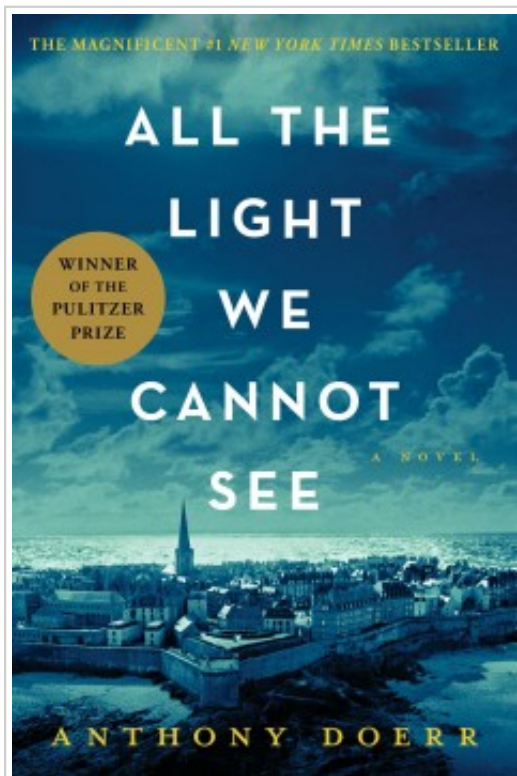


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All the Light We Cannot See

by Anthony Doerr

Price: \$27.00(Hardcover)

Published: May 06, 2014

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST

From the highly acclaimed, multiple award-winning Anthony Doerr, the beautiful, stunningly ambitious instant New York Times bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

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 twelve, 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...

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What We Say

This gripping, beautiful work is sure to be one of the most acclaimed -- and probably successful -- books of the year. Author Anthony Doerr spent some ten years crafting it and even delivered a nonfiction book in part about the struggles of writing this one. It was worth it. "All The Light We Cannot See" is a romantic, moving tale that spans decades but mostly covers the years before and during World War II. I say romantic, but it's not a romance with sweeping passions and a happy ending or even a nicely bittersweet sad one. It's a full-bodied work that delivers many indelible characters but switches back and forth especially between two: a young blind French girl being raised by her single father amidst the rarified world of the National Museum of Natural History in Paris and an orphan boy in Germany struggling to survive in a coal-mining town with his sister. The novel begins with D-Day where the boy Werner is a radio operator of sorts trapped in the basement of a hotel on the coast of France. The girl Marie-Laure is nearby, hiding in a home as bombs fall and a German officer obsessed with the fabled diamond the Sea Of Flames seeks her out. (The diamond was spirited away from her father's museum workplace, along with countless other valuables.) How melodramatic this sounds, but this sure-footed, absorbing tale is wonderfully detailed and alive without ever succumbing to flash. So much of it sticks in your mind: the training school where Werner's gifts for science are exploited, the detailed model of Marie-Laure's neighborhood lovingly crafted by her father, the elderly women of Saint-Malo who resist the Nazis in small ways and soon graduate to large ones, the giant of a soldier who befriends Werner, the sad wreck of an uncle who hides away from the world but comes out of his shell for Marie-Laure and on and on. Above all, there's a...a generosity of spirit, a kindness that permeates this work that comforts even as it delivers some hard truths about the brutality of war. It's a triumph. -- Michael Giltz

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What Others Say

"Exquisite...Mesmerizing...Nothing short of brilliant." - **Alice Evans****Portland Oregonian**

"Hauntingly beautiful." - **Janet Maslin****The New York Times**

"History intertwines with irresistible fiction—secret radio broadcasts, a cursed diamond, a soldier's deepest doubts—into a richly compelling, bittersweet package." - **Mary Pols****People (3 1/2 stars)**

"Anthony Doerr again takes language beyond mortal limits." - **Elissa Schappell****Vanity Fair**

"The whole enthralls." - **Good Housekeeping**

"Enthrillingly told, beautifully written...Every piece of back story reveals information that charges the emerging narrative with significance, until at last the puzzle-box of the plot slides open to reveal the treasure hidden inside." - **Amanda Vaill****Washington Post**

"Stupendous...A beautiful, daring, heartbreaking, oddly joyous novel." - **David Laskin****The Seattle Times**

"Stunning and ultimately uplifting... Doerr's not-to-be-missed tale is a testament to the buoyancy of our dreams, carrying us into the light through the darkest nights." - **Entertainment Weekly**