

Description

Unbroken is a true story about a courageous and brave young man. Louis Zamperini was a troubled kid that was always stealing food, running as fast as he could, and daydreaming of getting on a train and leaving Torrance, California forever. Louis gets into running and turns his love to run from the law into a love of track and field. He's forced to put his running on hold though, when World War II starts. He enlists in the air corps and becomes a bombardier. Him and his crew are transferred and are shot down over the Pacific. They float for days, fighting off sharks, trying to get food and water, and stay sane before they're captured by the Japanese. They're moved to a horrible POW camp and separated. Together they're moved from camp to camp; each worse than the other, hoping and wishing the war will end soon. Finally their wish happens. The war ends and all POW camps are liberated. Louie gets to go home.

Review

Unbroken is an intriguing book that shows the other side of World War II. It's a well written novel about Louis Zamperini and his amazing story of survival. From his crimes as a child, to his trips through many POW camps, and a sadistic guard nicknamed the Bird, Louie was incredibly strong. Bird was particularly bad and often beat Louie every chance he got. He even took it as far as to have ever prisoner punch Louis in the face once. There were over 200 prisoners. Laura Hillenbrand does an incredible job of describing Bird and the unthinkable things

he did, especially to Louis. Before Louis was captured, when he spent 47 days on a raft, was written in such incredible detail that it left me feeling like I was sitting in the raft with them. None of it is skipped or left out because it's violent, but neither does Hillenbrand talk about it to the point that it becomes repetitive. When talking about the men in POW camps Hillenbrand makes it sound respectful, but still manages to get the point across about how horrible the conditions really were. Like when Hillenbrand wrote, "The only break in the gloom came in the form of a smiling guard who liked to saunter down the barracks aisle, pause before each cell, raise one leg, and vent a surly fart at the captive within." This could have easily been wrote in an immature way. When the POW camps were liberated, and Louie got the chance to go home, he chose to look and feel better before he saw his family again. Hillenbrand was able to draft this as something special and it really came across just how much Louie loved and cared about his family. Overall it was a great read that left me wanting to know more. Unbroken is a book that pulled you in and left you wanting to keep reading.

Will This Book Be Read In 100 Years?

I think Unbroken will be read in 100 years. Mainly, I think, because Louie's story happens during the Holocaust. The Holocaust started almost 100 years ago and is still talked about today. On top of that is the fact that it's so well written, but also because Unbroken is about Louie's hardships, struggles, and survival during World War II. Unbroken is a fascinating book because Louis has such a bad reputation as a kid. Luckily his brother, Pete, stepped in and turned Louie into a track and field star. Louie managed to turn his life around and then become a WWII hero. He also made it to the 1936

Olympics in Berlin, breaking records as he went, and even got to meet Hitler (before America knew what he was doing to the Jews). Those are some major things that he'll be remembered for. I think because of Louie's incredible journey Unbroken will most likely be read 100 years from now.