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Sundin's "The land beneath us" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Sundin, S. (2020). *The land beneath us*. Grand Rapids: Revell. 384 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800727994

In 1943, 18-year old Leah Jones arrived at Camp Forest, Tennessee, to begin working in the camp library. Raised as an orphan and separated from her baby twin sisters at four, Leah longs to discover her heritage and the fate of her sisters. Private Clay Paxton is a US Army Ranger in training, preparing to fight with the Allies to invade Normandy. Betrayed by his two brothers and financially ruined, Clay suffers from a recurring dream foretelling his death on the battlefield. After rescuing Leah from a brutal attack, Clay offers her his name in marriage and spares her from anticipated shame. When Clay is shipped off to England to train for D-Day, their friendship deepens through correspondence. Leah strives to overcome her unfortunate upbringing and Clay believes he will die in war, but God gently reveals his unexpected plan for each of them.

This engrossing third installment of the “Sunrise at Normandy” trilogy is historical romance at its best. Sundin’s accurate descriptions of WWII people, places, and events are evidence of her impeccable research. Beautifully written and inspiring, *The Land Beneath Us* is a story about God’s care for his children in the midst of suffering. Both protagonists are compelling as they struggle to make sense of their past and forgive those who have wronged them. While Sundin broaches difficult issues such as rape, adoption, and racism, she stays true to the Christian fiction genre by effortlessly weaving themes of forgiveness, love, and redemption. Appropriate for teen and adult readers, this standalone title is highly recommended for all fiction collections.

Reviewer

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