For Fans of *Lilac Girls*,
More Unforgettable WWII Reads

Martha Hall Kelly’s *Lilac Girls* is all the buzz, with book groups and individual readers fascinated by the way the horrors of WWII brought out both the best and the worst in people. Be prepared to help patrons discover other stories of faith, fear, and courage in the face of unimaginable cruelty.

ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE by Anthony Doerr
F DOE, LARGE PRINT, CD AUDIOBOOK, OVERDRIVE EBOOK, OVERDRIVE AUDIOBOOK
Shifting among multiple viewpoints but focusing mostly on blind French teenager Marie-Laure and Werner, a brilliant German soldier just a few years older than she, this novel has the physical and emotional heft of a masterpiece. The main protagonists are brave, sensitive, and intellectually curious, and in another time they might have been a couple. But they are on opposite sides of the horrors of World War II, and their fates ultimately collide in connection with the radio—a means of resistance for the Allies and just one more avenue of annihilation for the Nazis. Set mostly in the final year of the war but moving back to the 1930s and forward to the present, the novel presents two characters so interesting and sympathetic that readers will keep turning the pages hoping for an impossibly happy ending. – Library Journal

THE NARROW ROAD TO THE DEEP NORTH by Richard Flanagan
F FLA
Taking its name from a collection of haiku poems by Matsuo Bashō, this novel is set at the end of World War II in a Japanese POW camp. Australian prisoners, led by physician Dorrigo Evans, are assigned the grueling task of building the Thai-Burma Railway, also known as the Death Railway and famously depicted in the film *The Bridge on the River Kwai*. (Flanagan’s father had been a POW and worked on the railway.) Amid daily violence, disease, and death, both the prisoners and the guards search for a sense of normalcy as they remain duty-bound to hierarchy. As the war ends and soldiers return to civilian life, each struggles to find meaning outside the routines of imprisonment. – Library Journal

THE NIGHTINGALE by Kristin Hannah
F HAN, LARGE PRINT, CD AUDIOBOOK, OVERDRIVE EBOOK, OVERDRIVE AUDIOBOOK
The bestselling author hits her stride in this page-turning tale about two sisters, one in the French countryside, the other in Paris, who show remarkable courage in the German occupation during WWII. The author ably depicts war’s horrors through the eyes of these two women, whose strength of character shines through no matter their differences. – Publishers Weekly

Compiled by Booklist 2016
THE GIRL IN THE BLUE BERET by Bobbie Ann Mason  
F MAS, CD AUDIOBOOK  
A touching novel about love, loss, war, and memory. Shot down over France during WWII, Marshall Stone takes the controls and lands the plane, helping as many of his surviving airmen to safety as he can. He’s saved by the French Resistance and ferried from one safe house to the next until he reaches the U.K. In 1980, after being forced into retirement, he returns to the crash site and vows to find those who helped him. Mason’s latest, based on the real-life experiences of her father-in-law, is fascinating and intensely intimate. – Publishers Weekly

SUITE FRANÇAISE by Irene Nemirovsky  
F NEM, LARGE PRINT, CD AUDIOBOOK  
Celebrated in pre-WWII France for her bestselling fiction, the Jewish Russian-born Némirovsky was shipped to Auschwitz in the summer of 1942, months after this long-lost masterwork was composed. Némirovsky, a convert to Catholicism, began a planned five-novel cycle as Nazi forces overran northern France in 1940. This gripping "suite," collecting the first two unpolished but wondrously literary sections of a work cut short, have surfaced more than six decades after her death. In a workbook entry penned just weeks before her arrest, Némirovsky noted that her goal was to describe "daily life, the emotional life and especially the comedy it provides." This heroic work does just that, by focusing—with compassion and clarity—on individual human dramas. – Publishers Weekly

THE GIRL FROM KRAKOW by Alex Rosenberg  
F ROS  
Rosenberg’s debut novel focuses on Rita Feuerstahl, a blond-haired Polish Jew who enters adulthood as the Nazis have secured their grip on Germany. The story follows her through World War II, struggling to hide her identity to avoid being deported to a death camp, all the while searching for her lost young son, Stefan. The book is a page-turner with a focus on how ordinary people cope when trapped in totalitarian systems. Rosenberg has done his homework on wartime Poland, Russia, and Germany, so that rather than using the period as window dressing, he vividly brings to life what it might have felt like, day to day, to navigate this distorted world. – Publishers Weekly
SARAH'S KEY by Tatiana de Rosnay  
F ROS, LARGE PRINT, CD AUDIOBOOK, OVERDRIVE AUDIOBOOK, HOOPLA AUDIOBOOK  
Pivotal to this novel is the key in ten-year-old Sarah's pocket. It opens the cupboard in which she has hidden her younger brother from the French police, who are rounding up Jews in Paris. It is July 16, 1942, and Sarah, along with her parents and hundreds more people, are brought to the stadium Vlodrome d'Hiver, where they spend several days without food or water before being sent to French camps en route to Auschwitz. In alternating chapters, we read of American-born journalist Julia Jarmond, who's working on a magazine story about the "Vel'd'Hiv" roundup on its 60th anniversary. Because the grandparents of Julia's husband moved into the apartment once owned by Sarah's family, we learn what Sarah discovers when she finally returns ten years later with the key—knowledge so traumatic that it changes Julia's life forever. Masterly and compelling, it is not something that readers will quickly forget. – Library Journal

SOPHIE'S CHOICE by William Styron  
F STY, OVERDRIVE EBOOK  
Three stories are told: a young Southerner wants to become a writer; a turbulent love-hate affair between a brilliant Jew and a beautiful Polish woman; and of an awful wound in that woman's past--one that impels both Sophie and Nathan toward destruction. – Publisher's description

A TRAIN IN WINTER: AN EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF WOMEN, FRIENDSHIP, AND RESISTANCE IN OCCUPIED FRANCE by Caroline Moorehead  
940.53082 MOO, LARGE PRINT, OVERDRIVE AUDIOBOOK  
The winter of 1942–43 encompassed some of the darkest days of World War II, not least for the French Resistance. Moorehead uses as her lens the lesser-known January 1943 transport of 230 women of the Resistance to the Auschwitz death camp. She conducted interviews with several of the 49 surviving women or their families and incorporates information from their published and unpublished works about the experiences they endured during their incarceration. Taking us from the early days of the Resistance and these women's roles to the postwar period of disillusionment and unhappiness, Moorehead finds inspiration in the way they assisted and protected one another, sometimes ensuring another's survival to the detriment of themselves. – Library Journal

THE ZOOKEEPER'S WIFE by Diane Ackerman  
940.5318 ACK, LARGE PRINT, CD AUDIOBOOK, BOOK CLUB TO GO  
A little-known yet profoundly moving story: how Warsaw's zookeeper (and his wife) kept their few remaining animals alive during the Nazi occupation while hiding Jews at the zoo. – Library Journal
RAVENSBRÜCK: LIFE AND DEATH IN HITLER'S CONCENTRATION CAMP FOR WOMEN by Sarah Helm
940.5318 HEL
An estimated 100,000-plus inmates were interned at the Ravensbrück concentration camp, built by Heinrich Himmler just before World War II scarcely 50 miles from Berlin. All were women—including antifascists, Communists, Resistance fighters, lesbians, and prostitutes—and many thousands died after various brutal tortures and medical experiments. British journalist Helm interviewed survivors and dug into German and newly available Russian archives to write what purports to be the first full-scale history of Ravensbrück—not as well known as other camps, perhaps, as the author argues, because its inmates were entirely female and not predominantly Jewish, so it doesn’t fit into the larger history of the war. – Library Journal

NIGHT by Elie Wiesel
940.5318 WIE, CD AUDIOBOOK
Born in Sighet, Transylvania, Elie Wiesel was a teenager when he and his family were taken from their home in 1944 and deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp, and then to Buchenwald. Night is the terrifying record of Elie Wiesel’s memories of the death of his family, the death of his own innocence, and his despair as a deeply observant Jew confronting the absolute evil of man. – Publisher’s description

THE HIDING PLACE by Corrie Ten Boom
940.53492 TEN (included in Corrie Ten Boom, Her Story), OVERDRIVE EBOOK, OVERDRIVE AUDIOBOOK, HOOPLA EBOOK, HOOPLA AUDIOBOOK
Corrie ten Boom (1892–1983) was a Dutch woman admired the world over for her courage, her forgiveness, and her memorable faith. In World War II, she and her family risked their lives to help Jews escape the Nazis by hiding them in their home in Haarlem, and their reward was a trip to Hitler’s concentration camps. Corrie’s father, sister, brother, and nephew died as a result of their imprisonment. But she survived and was released—as a result of a clerical error—and now shares the story of how faith triumphs over evil. – Publisher’s description