



Unbroken (The Young Adult Adaptation): An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive

By Laura Hillenbrand

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In this captivating and lavishly illustrated young adult edition of her award-winning #1 *New York Times* bestseller, Laura Hillenbrand tells the story of a former Olympian's courage, cunning, and fortitude following his plane crash in enemy territory. This adaptation of *Unbroken* introduces a new generation to one of history's most thrilling survival epics.

On a May afternoon in 1943, an American military plane crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, the plane's bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft and pulling himself aboard. So began one of the most extraordinary sagas of the Second World War.

The lieutenant's name was Louis Zamperini. As a boy, he had been a clever delinquent, breaking into houses, brawling, and stealing. As a teenager, he had channeled his defiance into running, discovering a supreme talent that carried him to the Berlin Olympics. But when war came, the athlete became an airman, embarking on a journey that led to his doomed flight, a tiny raft, and a drift into the unknown.

Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, a sinking raft, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would respond to desperation with ingenuity, suffering with hope and humor, brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would hang on the fraying wire of his will.

Featuring more than one hundred photographs plus an exclusive interview with Zamperini, this breathtaking odyssey—also captured on film by director Angelina Jolie—is a testament to the strength of the human spirit and the ability to endure against the unlikeliest of odds.

Praise for *Unbroken*

"This adaptation of Hillenbrand's adult bestseller is highly dramatic and exciting, as well as painful to read as it lays bare man's hellish inhumanity to man."—***Booklist*, STARRED**

"This captivating book emphasizes the importance of determination, the will to survive against impossible odds, and support from family and friends. A strong, well-written work."—***SLJ***

"This fine adaptation ably brings an inspiring tale to young readers."—***Kirkus***

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Adapted from the best-selling adult book of the same name, this riveting account tells the story of Louis Zamperini, a thief turned track star, Olympian, airman, castaway, and prisoner of war. Born to Italian immigrants in 1917, Zamperini was heading down a path of crime (stealing, fighting) until his older brother Pete stepped in, encouraging him to join the track team. It wasn't long before Zamperini was winning every race, eventually going on to the 1936 Berlin Olympics. The book details how the 1940 Olympics were canceled due to World War II and describes how Zamperini was drafted into the U.S. Air Force. Writing in a gripping, intense tone, Hillenbrand relates how tragedy struck when Zamperini's plane was shot down and he and two other men spent 47 days in a life boat in the Pacific Ocean, fighting sharks, starvation, and dehydration, before being captured by the Japanese navy as prisoners of war. More than 100 engaging photographs appear throughout. This captivating book emphasizes the importance of determination, the will to survive against impossible odds, and support from family and friends. This adaptation softens some of the harsh details of POW life found in the adult version and has shortened the book by about a third. Though this is a strong, well-written work, the adult version is accessible and engaging; students are better off sticking with the original.—Stephanie Farnlacher, Trace Crossings Elementary School, Hoover, AL

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"A humdinger of a page-turner: a noble story about the courage of America's Greatest Generation, personified."—*The Horn Book Review*

From the Hardcover edition.

About the Author

Laura Hillenbrand is the author of the #1 *New York Times* bestsellers *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*, and *Seabiscuit: An American Legend*, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, won the Book Sense Book of the Year Award and the William Hill Sports Book of the Year Award, landed on more than fifteen best-of-the-year lists, and inspired the film *Seabiscuit*, which was nominated for seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture. She is serving as a consultant on the Universal Pictures feature film based on *Unbroken*. Hillenbrand's *New Yorker* article, "A Sudden Illness," won the National Magazine Award. Her work has also appeared in such publications as the *New York Times*, *Vanity Fair*, the *Washington Post* and the *Los Angeles Times*. She and actor Gary Sinise were the cofounders of Operation International Children, a charity that provided school supplies to children through American troops.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Floyd Lipp:

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Felix Talarico:

The ability that you get from Unbroken (The Young Adult Adaptation): An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive could be the more deep you digging the information that hide into the words the more you get interested in reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to recognise but Unbroken (The Young Adult Adaptation): An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive giving you joy feeling of reading. The copy writer conveys their point in certain way that can be understood by means of anyone who read this because the author of this reserve is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. So it is easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We advise you for having that Unbroken (The Young Adult Adaptation): An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive instantly.

Anna Rangel:

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Susan Albro:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition info. Even you love Unbroken (The Young Adult Adaptation): An

Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive, you could enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout men. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

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