

SUMMARIZED
FOR BUSY PEOPLE



BENEATH A
SCARLET SKY

A Novel: Based on the Book by Mark Sullivan



GOLDMINE READS

BENEATH A SCARLET SKY
Summarized For Busy People

A Novel

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BOOK OVERVIEW

When the war efforts has finally reached Milan, Pino's mother and his sister went away and sought shelter. Mimo, his brother, traveled to the Alps and found safety in Casa Alpina, a retreat managed by Father Re. His father tried to send him to the retreat as well, but to no avail. Pino ultimately conceded when the bombs demolished the family's apartment and business.

Father Re implemented rules in his retreat and obligated the boys under his care to continue their studies. Pino, on the other hand, had another requirement: every weekday, he had to take hours-long hikes and climb perilous mountain trails. He was warned against the highway bandits and Nazi soldiers that roamed the hilly roads. Pino would eventually use his knowledge of the mountains to guide Jews bound for Switzerland staying in Casa Alpina to hide from the Nazi troops. He faced death every time he would deliver the Jews through the steep cliffs of the Alps and its avalanches. Pino also trained his brother as well as other boys to lead the way through the underground railway system.

During his time at Casa Alpina, Pino met a man who dreamed of becoming a renowned racecar driver. The young fellow taught him how to drive and maintain vehicles. Pino enjoyed his driving lessons greatly and loved traversing the mountains. However, his life took a turn when he was forced by his parents to join the German military. The Lellas were not actually Nazi supporters, but they wanted to spare Pino from being drafted and assigned to the Russian front.

Pino suffered an injury during a battle, so he was asked to return to Milan instead where he was chosen to work for one General Leyers. The General was among the highest-ranking Nazi officers in Italy, and Pino became his driver and translator. Pino attended the General's meetings with Benito Mussolini, Cardinal Schuster (the head of Milan's Catholic Church), and other prominent leaders of the war. He became a spy and passed all the highly classified information he gathered from the meetings onto the Allied forces.

Among the atrocities that Pino witnessed from the Nazis were slavery and the use of concentration camps. He lost many of his friends and family as

well as his teenage innocence. His love for Anna served as an unwavering source of joy and strength throughout the difficult times. When the war finally came to an end, he received his greatest loss yet: Anna was killed by Italians looking for vengeance for the crimes the Germans have committed.

The novel's final chapter shows the life of the main characters following the war. Some eventually found happiness and moved on with their lives while others were scarred for life. The Lella family business was inherited by Pino, who spent the rest of his life in search of a love just like the one he had lost to the war.

ABOUT THIS BOOK SUMMARY

This book summary serves as a guide to Mark Sullivan's *Beneath a Scarlet Sky: A Novel*. No text of the actual book is included, so if you prefer, you may purchase a copy before you proceed.

This guide includes a book overview, brief descriptions of the story's author and setting, a plot analysis, a list of characters and an analysis of their roles, chapter summaries, and explanations of the motifs and themes used throughout the story.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mark Sullivan is an author highly praised for his eighteen novels including *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* which became a number one bestseller in Kindle. He has also worked with James Patterson on the Private series which topped The New York Times' bestseller list. His work has been granted the WH Smith Fresh Talent Award. One of his novels have been named as the Los Angeles Times Book of the Year while another as a New York Times Notable Book.

Mark Sullivan was raised in Medfield, Massachusetts. Upon finishing his BA in English in Hamilton College, he volunteered in the Peace Corps in Niger, West Africa. When he returned to America, he completed a graduate degree at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and pursued a career in investigative journalism. He is an avid skier and an adventurer, and he currently resides in Bozeman, Montana with his wife. A man with a fire in his soul, Mark Sullivan lives in gratitude for each beautiful moment of life.

BOOK SETTING

The beginning of the story shows Milan, Italy in June 1943. Allied troops marched just outside Sicily, and in response, Hitler sent reinforcements every day to the boot of Italy. At the center of Milan was a Duomo: the great Gothic cathedral called Basilica di Santa Maria Nascente. The majestic city was filled with historic and medieval structures, and its fashion district where the Lella family resided was the famous center for style and commerce. In its streets were high-end stores and lavish apartments.

The gradual destruction of Milan during the heat of war is depicted throughout the story. In the novel's last chapters, Milan was covered with dust and smoke that reeked of the distinct smell of explosives. The bombs destroyed historic structures which once stood proud at the heart of the city. Food became scarce, and the citizens waited in long lines for their rations.

As the story progressed, Pino left the city and stayed at Father Re's mountain retreat called Casa Alpina. It sheltered boys from the bombings and served as sanctuary for the Jews escaping Nazi officers. The Alps were vital to the story, for through it was where the Jews found their freedom.

STORY PLOT ANALYSIS

Author Mark Sullivan once stated that the story of Pino Lella's goodness and bravery has undoubtedly changed his life. He had written the novel's characters in such a way that their interactions seemed real and their relationships intimate. He has effectively portrayed how typical teenagers would act under such complex situations. Overall, *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* is a book about contrasts—specifically about the battle between good and evil—and the defining line that often blurs.

Pino Lella developed from an awkward teenager—who hadn't been so lucky in getting dates—into one of the most esteemed agents in anti-German intelligence. Pino's character was the embodiment of innocence and courage against unspeakable atrocities. His lover was a beautiful woman named Anna who carried the burden of her dark past. As Pino was cast deeper and deeper into the echelons of the Nazi regime, she served as his respite from the evils he had witnessed during the war.

The Lellas were a family of culture and class, and they were highly regarded in the fashion business. Pino's father was a sophisticated and mild-mannered man, preferring to play his violin instead of actively participating in the war. Each member of the Lella family was acquainted with the brutality of the Nazis. Meanwhile, behind the scenes were the Catholic clergy, Cardinal Schuster, and Father Re providing a sense of hope in the face of the evil German occupation.

The characters of the Nazi officials including General Leyers were vicious and cruel. Throughout the story, it was clear that the General had no regard for human life and suffering. By the last chapters of the novel, Pino was tasked to deliver Leyers to the Americans in exchange for his help during the war. Pino faced great dangers just to keep the General safe, and he did so despite the knowledge that the man he was protecting had ordered the death of thousands of innocent people including the love of his life, Anna.

In *Beneath a Scarlet Sky*, Mark Sullivan effectively illustrated how opposing sides are both capable of committing horrendous acts in the name of war. For closure, he added brief descriptions of the lives of the characters after the war.

LIST OF KEY CHARACTERS

Main Characters

Pino Lella was the eldest son of Michele and Porzia Lella, two successful fashion retailers based in Milan. Pino came to Casa Alpina after the family apartment had been wrecked by the bombings. There he guided escaping Jews across the Alps and toward safety. He served as a driver and translator for one of the most formidable generals in the Nazi occupation in Italy. He became a spy for the Allied forces and was recognized later on as one of the bravest men in World War II. The story essentially revolved around Pino's growth in terms of character and strength from being a typical teenage boy to a courageous spy.

Anna was the tawny-blond beauty who captured Pino's heart. He saw her shopping during one of his walks through Milan and asked her to a date in the movies. Anna served the mistress of General Leyers, and when Pino discovered this, he tried his best to earn Anna's love and respect. She was the first girl Pino ever cared about, and when she died during the war, Pino spent the rest of his life waiting for a love like hers.

Father Re was the priest in charge of maintaining Casa Alpina, the mountain retreat in which boys took shelter from the bombings. He organized a system that would help Jews cross the mountains to safety and evade the Nazi soldiers. The Member of the clergy who aided Jews in their escape were executed right before the parishioners, so Father Re had been truly brave to risk his life and help those in need.

Cardinal Schuster is the prominent and influential cardinal who became an advisor of Pope Pius XII and often appeared in the news. He wore a kind smile, but his eyes were often condemning. He served a vital role in ending the war by communicating with General Leyers. When Anna was executed by a firing squad, Cardinal Schuster stopped a heartbroken Pino from taking his own life.

General Leyers was a ruthless high-ranking officer of the Nazi army stationed in Italy. He employed Pino as his personal driver and translator. **Pino** used this opportunity to gather highly classified information and help

the Allies. On rare occasions, Leyers would show empathy and remorse for the horrors he saw during the war.

Dolly was the mistress of General Leyers and the employer of Anna. She and the General often fought about his wife. Dolly was shot by partisans for her involvement with a Nazi general. Anna was killed too because Dolly said nothing when Anna begged her to tell the soldiers that she was just her maid.

Secondary Characters

Giovanni Barbareschi was the young seminarian who aided Father Re in his efforts to save the Jews from capture by the Nazis. German soldiers had arrested him multiple times and was nearly killed by the Nazis.

Mimo Lella was the younger brother of Pino. The two were close and considered one another as a dear friend. They both spent time at Casa **Alpina**, and Mimo later resented Pino for joining the German armed forces. Just like his brother, Mimo did not let the war crush his spirit. The brothers eventually reconciled when Mimo learned that Pino was actually a spy and was working for the resistance.

Carletto Beltramini was Pino's best friend throughout childhood. His father was killed during an attack. Carletto also resented Pino for joining the German army but eventually made peace when he discovered Pino's true motives.

Aunt Greta and Uncle Albert were the members of Pino's family who ran a luxury luggage shop. They urged him to become a spy and aid the Italian resistance. They risked their lives passing information from Pino to the Allied forces. It was for them that Pino was able to tap into the Nazi communications system and use it to send information to the Allies. When Uncle Albert was arrested, he was sentenced to death but was ultimately spared.

Alberto Ascari was the young fellow Pino met, who had dreamt of becoming a famous racecar driver like his deceased father. Alberto's family had sent him to his uncle's in the safety of the mountains. It was Alberto that had fetched Pino at the railway station. The two immediately clicked, and in exchange for driving lessons, Pino would teach Alberto how to ski. Although

Pino was only eighteen years old, he qualified as the driver of a high-ranking Nazi official due to his extensive knowledge in driving and maintaining vehicles.

Michele Lella was Pino's father who played the violin and the man who ran the family business of luxury purses in Milan's fashion district. To keep his family safe from the bombs dropping on the city, he resolved to send them away. He loved his sons dearly, and he took pride in their contribution to the resistance against the German occupation.

Cicci Lella was the youngest child of the Lella family. She was six years old when she fled with her mother from the city.

Porzia Lella was Pino's mother who had laid down rules for the family and enforced them with austerity. She encouraged Pino to join the German army despite his aversion to the Nazis.

Tullio was the young and successful dress sales representative who was known to always be in the company of women. Pino admired him and wished to gain such popularity. Tullio was part of the resistance and served as a spy. He was eventually caught by the Nazis and was sentenced to death by firing squad. Dread filled Pino as he watched Tullio's execution.

Tito was among the group of curs that hassled Pino and Father Re. He stole Pino's money clip and his boots. Tito used the war as guise for his acts of vandalism and even murdered innocents. He was killed at the hands of Carletto Beltramini in the name of vengeance.

Colonel Rauff was a leader of the Nazi soldiers stationed in Milan. He was ruthless and had no regard for human life.

ANALYSIS OF KEY CHARACTERS

Pino Lella

Pino was a typical teenager whose life was turned upside-down by the war. His family was rich and refined, and the upscale district in which he grew up in was unfamiliar with the true destruction of war. When the Allies first came to Italy, Pino had a rather positive outlook: he looked forward to hearing their jazz music. He witnessed the two faces of war when he joined Father Re in helping Jews escape through the Alps. The teenage boy became a courageous man who risked his life to save other people. What he witnessed on Platform 21 reinforced his commitment to the resistance and his desire to free Italy from the Nazi occupation. Pino came to know true love when he met Anna, and he felt no greater loss than her death. Through his experiences during the war, he realized that kind acts were not always rewarded and that evil acts sometimes go unpunished.

Anna

She was the girl with whom Pino had fallen in love. She was six years his senior, and she carried the secrets of her dark past. Anna's mother once believed that she had been possessed, so she called for priests to exorcise her. Anna loved her father dearly, and during her birthday, she begged him to take her to a boating trip despite the storm. Her father fell out of the boat by accident and was lost to the rough seas. Anna blamed herself for her father's death. Later on, she was arranged to be married to a soldier she had never met. When the soldier died, she came to work as a maid for the mistress of General Leyers, one of the highest-ranking officials of the German occupation. When Anna met Pino, she discovered in the darkness a light she never knew existed. She felt free in his love and had hoped she could spend the rest of her life with him.

General Leyers

He is among the most complex characters of the book. For most of the story, the General was portrayed to be extremely loyal to the Nazi regime. He

unflinchingly watched acts of torture and brutality. He felt nothing about stealing the manufactured products and crops of Italians to give to Germans. Pino was also sure that he had seen Leyers shoot four innocent people. On the contrary, there were times when Leyers had shown some humanity. He was moved when a young girl on Platform 21 had fallen ill. He had the child taken care of while he sent the child's mother to a concentration camp. The General had not been discreet with his affair with Dolly, and he also refused to leave his wife and children. When he was taken by Pino to safety, he revealed the codename Pino used in the resistance. General Leyers had been fully aware of Pino's collaboration with the Allies but decided not to turn him in.

The characters in *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* illustrate how life is not always black and white. The choices that people make do not necessarily make them good or bad.

CHAPTER SUMMARIES

Preface

The preface describes the life of author Mark Sullivan before he decided to write *Beneath a Scarlet Sky*. Then forty-seven years old, Mark found himself at the depths of despair. He was almost bankrupt, the novel he had just written didn't sell, and he was currently in the middle of a tricky business quarrel. As if things couldn't get any worse, his brother, whom he had also considered his best friend, drank himself to death. Mark thought he could no longer carry on, so he decided to end his suffering by driving full speed into a road barricade. Fortunately, he had a change of heart when he remembered that he had a family he could not simply leave behind.

It was at a time of such suffering that Mark had heard about Pino Lella, a boy who became a World War II hero at the young age of seventeen. He resolved to learn more about Pino's story and flew to Italy to meet the man in the flesh. In a small town just north of Milan was where Mark spent the next three weeks listening to Pino reveal his life during the war. He had also met with Catholic priests, Holocaust historians, and partisan resistance members to confirm and gather more information vital to the novel. Mark was moved by his interaction with Pino Lella, claiming that it has changed his life. He returned to Italy four more times throughout the completion of his work.

Beneath a Scarlet Sky is a biography that includes some elements of historical fiction. Mark Sullivan had based the novel on the facts, testimonies, archives, and interviews but added dialogues and scenes to dramatize Pino Lella's story of valor.

PART ONE: NONE SHALL SLEEP

Chapter One

Seventeen-year-old Pino Lella was a tall and rather awkward boy who lived in Milan at the start of the Second World War. He and his family lived in an apartment in the city's fashion district where they also ran a luxury purse business called Le Borsette di Lella. The war threatened them like a dark cloud overhead, but Milan was yet to know its devastation.

Pino and his younger brother, Mimo, came to the Duomo—the Catholic cathedral at the heart of Milan—where people were working to arrange the structure's exterior lighting. Pino spoke with a young seminarian named Giovanni Barbareschi who stood outside to watch the construction work. He met Cardinal Schuster, and he was reproached by the young cleric for failing to address the Cardinal properly. Cardinal Schuster kindly explained to Pino that bomber pilots might be discouraged from dropping bombs on the Duomo when they see its magnificence by the lighting. The Cardinal then made a prediction that he would not forget Pino's name.

Being a teenager, Pino didn't yet understand the politics that influenced the dynamics of the city. He and his other young friends understood only the threat of war. They knew Milan was preparing for imminent attacks, so they evaded the Nazis marching in Milan.

Like most teenage boys, Pino sought female attention. He was particularly struck by the beauty of Anna, a tawny-blonde he had seen shopping. Pino asked her on a date, and she agreed to watch a movie with him. His brother and his best friend teased him for always going after girls who never liked him back.

Chapter Two

Pino and Mimo got caught in a heavy downpour on the way home. When they arrived, their parents were preparing the apartment for a party. Porzia, their mother, scolded them for being late because she had wanted them to help with the preparations. As an excuse, Pino claimed that they were late

because he had been ill. Mimo quickly jumped in and supported his brother's lie.

Michele, their father, began to play his violin and looked forward to the arrival of the other musicians.

Porzia and Michele were interested in hearing more about the Nazi army. Pino told them that he had already seen soldiers inside the city. In one of the stores, he saw one Gestapo soldier who claimed that Hotel Regina was being taken over by the Nazi troops.

The Lellas' lavish apartment housed the family and two maids. Now it was filled with numerous guests as well as the splendid sound of classical music which Pino hated. He wanted to hear jazz music, and he hoped that American soldiers would finally bring jazz to Italy. Pino escaped the party with his brother later on and went to the movies for his date. Sadly, Anna never showed up. Pino ended up giving Anna's ticket to Mimo. The air raid siren suddenly sounded as the movie was playing, and the theater's walls turned into rubble.

Chapter Three

As the two hurried out of the theater, something caught Pino's cheek and formed a gash. On their way home, they passed by plenty of dead bodies and even more injured people. They noticed that the Cardinal had implemented the right strategy: the Duomo was untouched.

When they returned to the apartment, their father was still playing the violin. This outraged Pino, and he demanded to know how Michele could continue to play his violin and be oblivious to the destruction from the bombings. His father replied that only music would get him through the suffering caused by the war.

Luckily, there was a doctor at the family's party, and Porzia requested the guest to take care of the cut on her son's face. A man named Tullio was also there at the party with a beautiful woman in his arm. Whenever he was not working as a prosperous dress sales representative, he was collaborating with Nazi resistance groups.

Pino recalled his dread when he heard the air raid siren blasting through the night and the theater shook as the bombs hit the ground.

Chapter Four

Pino and his best friend Carletto walked around the city to assess the damage from the recent bombing. Pino found himself thinking about Anna and pondered why she didn't show up.

To keep him safe, Pino's family wanted to send him to a mountain retreat called Casa Alpina which was managed by the Catholic Church. Pino refused, for he was hopeful that the Americans would arrive with their jazz music and save Milan from the Nazis. Pino longed to see Anna again so he decided to stay. Meanwhile, Porzia was convinced that the city was no longer safe, so she fled with her daughter to the west coast of Italy. Once again, Michele attempted to send Pino away, but to no avail.

Seeking respite from the attacks on the city, Pino and Michele boarded a train with the Beltraminis. Carletto revealed a foreboding that his life would be riddled with misfortune. He also told the Lellas that his mother was dying. Pino observed how Carletto's father had little concern for his dying wife.

To their sons' dismay, Michele played his violin while Mr. Beltramini sang. They usually sounded unpleasant, but the duo were excellent this time. A crowd had gathered to listen to their music and clapped generously afterwards.

The bombings and violence continued in Milan, so Michele and Pino fled the city night after night to keep safe. While they were away, bombs have dropped on the building in which their apartment and family business stood. Now without home and livelihood, Michele resolved to send his son to Casa Alpina. He would not hear anymore of Pino's protests, for Milan was no longer a safe place for them.

PART TWO: THE CATHEDRAL OF THE GODS

Chapter Five

With both their home and their store destroyed, staying in Milan was no longer an option. Michele knew he had to send his son to Father Re. Before they parted, he placed a roll of lire in Pino's hand. Pino was mad because he felt Michele was treating him as if he were a little child. He had no other choice, so he boarded the train and crossed the vast mountains. Throughout the journey, Pino saw thousands of men wearing filthy gray outfits and thought about who they were.

A young boy just about Pino's age, Alberto Ascari, welcomed him upon his arrival in Chiavenna. Alberto wanted to become a legendary Grand Prix driver just like his deceased father. Pino offered to teach Alberto how to ski. In return, Alberto would teach him how to drive and maintain a vehicle. Alberto fled the war and moved to the region with his uncle who ran an auto shop. In the safety of Casa Alpina, Pino looked on as Alberto drove away. He could not help but feel as if he had just met someone who would play an important role in his life.

Pino joined the rest of the boys inside the group quarters. He was to share a room with Mimo, his brother who had been sent there beforehand. Pino shared that their apartment and business have been reduced to ruins by the bombs. They would have to stay at Casa Alpina until the family could find a new home.

Chapter Six

Pino dreamed about car races before he was awakened by Father Re. He was tasked to finish a hike that stretched eighteen kilometers. Pino was cautioned by Father Re to beware of the suspicious people lurking around the trails close to the retreat. He was also warned to avoid the Nazi troops in the area.

Pino began the hike with reluctance. Once, he heard a man yelling angrily close by, so he hurried across the treacherous terrain and through the

deluge. He finished the journey in five hours and fifteen minutes, and by the time he returned to Casa Alpina, he was soaking wet and had blistered feet. He was attended to by Father Re who wanted him to recount the details of the morning excursion.

Pino was asked to rest for awhile then begin his studies. The following morning, Father Re woke him one hour later than yesterday to make another trip across a sheer ravine. Pino agree once more, still with reluctance. He did not understand why he was being made to follow a rather strange route.

Done with the tasks Father Re had asked of him, Pino visited Alberto to begin their driving lessons. Pino enjoyed learning about the gauges and how to adapt the vehicle depending on direction changes, elevation, and terrain. Pino and Alberto encountered Nazis along the way. The patrols hesitated at first but eventually let the two pass. On their next run, Pino and Alberto chased Nazi soldiers in a Kübelwagen, a jeep-style vehicle. Pino was driving the vehicle, and he floored it, narrowly evading capture.

Upon Pino's return to Casa Alpina, Father Re asked him about what had happened outside. Father Re was displeased to learn that Pino had provoked Nazi soldiers. He ordered Pino to practice going undetected instead.

Father Re had a new task for Pino: to traverse a razorback ridge which began just above the mountain retreat and made a long winding ascent to the Groppera.

Chapter Seven

Some dangerous sections of the climb filled Pino's heart with fear, but he continued nonetheless. He knew he would meet a certain death if he ever fell from such great heights. He looked to his faith in God for strength to carry on with the journey. Pino was exhausted when he reached the end of the trail, so he lied down to take a nap. When Pino got back to Casa Alpina, Father Re reprimanded him for returning late. Pino was given time during the weekends to do as he pleased, and he would meet with Alberto for more driving lessons. Pino met Frederica and Titiana through Alberto, but he

found himself constantly thinking about Anna.

Chapter Eight

A trio of one woman and two men came to Casa Alpina. Father Re introduced them to Pino using their aliases and asked him to guide them to safety which lay beyond a perilous trail. They journeyed through the cold air of one autumn night. Luigi, one of the two men, was a smoker. He was stubborn, and his pace slowed the group's progress along the dangerous uphill trail. Exhausted, Luigi refused to go any further and moved only when Pino forced him to. Pino exhibited a perfect balance between firm and encouraging. At the end of the trail, they found a bearded man with a gun waiting for them.

Chapter Nine

The bearded man introduced himself as Bergstrom, the person Father Re had sent to escort the trio through the subsequent part of their journey. They thanked Pino, and Luigi even gave a prized imported cigar to show his gratitude.

Pino was glad that he had helped people escape from the Nazis. He wanted to go straight to Alberto's and spend some time with his newfound friend. Pino spotted four figures along the way. They had rifles with them, so he thought that they must be Nazis looking to arrest him.

Pino began his descent through the goat trails, and he passed by the innkeeper's son, Nicco, playing with other children. He was heading towards the inn when he noticed an upset Alberto rushing to catch up to him. Alberto revealed that a group of partisans came to the area looking for Jews. During their conversation, Pino saw Nicco pick up from the grass a large object in the shape of an egg. As Nicco approached his friends to show what he had found, the object exploded in a fiery flash right in his hands.

The boys screamed in horror. Pino carried Nicco and immediately took him to his parents inside the inn. Pino was terribly exhausted from guiding the trio to safety, but still he raced back to Casa Alpina to fetch Father Re so that

Nicco's lifeless body may be blessed. He recalled the times he had spoken to the child about skiing, and he felt heartbroken by the loss.

Pino spoke with Father Re who decided to stay with Nicco's family. He couldn't get his mind off Nicco and the two other children wounded in the huge explosion. Seeing his brother's distress, Mimo spoke with Pino and learned about the tragedy. He also helped Pino bathe and comforted him as he lied in bed.

Father Re comforted Pino and urged him to look for strength in his faith. He also informed him that there would be two travelers coming in next week. Pino would have to cross the dangerous terrain with them and bring them to safety. Many other travelers came to the retreat over the next few weeks, seeking Pino's help to traverse the Alps. Pino did help them, risking his life every time he escorted them through the treacherous trail. He found comfort in his thoughts of Anna, and he pondered whether he would ever find someone to love.

Father Re discovered that the Nazi soldiers were beginning to suspect him, and he grew concerned. There was an increase in the Nazi troops patrolling the area, so Father Re resorted to assigning watchers who would track the movement of the patrols and establish a means of communication. There was a catwalk around Casa Alpina which they used to look into the nearby town for a sign of the presence of Nazi soldiers. The watcher in place would draw a particular shade to signal that the troops were on patrol.

When the number of travelers arriving in Casa Alpina made it apparent that Pino could not deliver all of them to safety by himself, he began to train the other older boys including his younger brother Mimo. They brought skis with climbing skins so that their return to the retreat would take much less time.

During the holidays, Pino and Mimo reunited with their family. Milan was no longer the city they had known. The two attended a party in which Pino danced with plenty of girls. Four men came wielding shotguns and announced that they were partisans fighting against the German occupation. When they asked for donations, Mr. Conte accused them of leaving the grenade that killed Nicco. The confrontation resulted into a brawl.

As it turned out, the men were not actually part of the resistance; they were

crooks who had come to rob the people attending the holiday party. Among the crows was a man named Tito who recognized Pino and cautioned him and Father Re against helping the Jews escape. The crooks took Pino's boots and his money clip.

Chapter Ten

Despite the risks he faced during each trip, Pino continued to smuggle Jews through the Alps and towards safety. One of the groups he escorted included a female violinist who played at La Scala before. Pino had also met her at one of the house parties hosted by his father. They left the retreat at two in the morning and began their journey of a steep 122-meter climb and descent. The woman grew sick throughout the excursion, and she eventually admitted to Pino that she was carrying a child.

Pino suggested that she leave her violin, and when she objected, he carried it himself. He carefully led the group uphill where the threat of an avalanche forced them to tread lightly. Further up the dangerous mountain, they came across a whiteout. Mimo fell into the thick snow which opened a chute, drawing him in and burying him in more snow.

Chapter Eleven

Pino put his life in danger in order to rescue his brother. Mimo was only grateful to be alive. The incident strengthened their bond as brothers, and they felt closer than ever before.

The group took shelter inside a hut covered by the snow of avalanche. There wasn't enough room to breathe, and they eventually had to make their way out. Pino struggled to get the violinist to continue with the journey. He pled, encouraged, and forced them to keep moving until they finally reached the end of the trail. The pregnant woman played her violin in celebration and gratitude.

Chapter Twelve

After the trip with the female violinist, Pino journeyed over a dozen more

times to deliver Jews in the safety of Switzerland. Pino has grown in strength and character, feeling more capable than he had ever been. One night, he heard shouting outside. Pino joined Brother Bormio and watched as Father Re was harassed by the three thugs who were with Tito during New Year's Eve. Tito, the leader of the crooks, continued to threaten Father Re and even hit Pino. In order to protect the boys and preserve their mission to help Jews, Father Re gave the curs three days' worth of rations to get them to leave.

Pino left his books and walked across the catwalk when he recognized the Morse code signals the watchers were sending: German troops were headed to Casa Alpina. Colonel Rauff soon arrived and told them that the young seminarian named Giovanni Barbareschi was detained in a prison mostly known for committing acts of torture.

Pino and his brother led the Jews hiding in the retreat outside to hide in the cover of the trees. As a distraction, Mimo pretended that an ox had broken free, and Colonel Rauff showed him how to capture them again. Pino and Mimo were finally able to relax when the Gestapo left. Alberto soon came bearing a message from Michele. Pino was asked to come home as soon as possible to deal with a matter concerning life and death.

PART THREE: THE CATHEDRALS OF MAN

Chapter Thirteen

Only seven months have passed since Pino first stepped foot in Casa Alpina, but to him it felt like years. He was reluctant to leave because he wanted to continue delivering Jews safely through the Alps. To reassure him, Father Re told Pino that Mimo and other boys in the retreat would be tasked to carry on their important mission.

Pino was beckoned home by his father because he would be turning eighteen soon and thus would be qualified for the draft. If Pino waited until he was of age, he would be assigned to the Russian front of the Fascist army. Michele thought that it would be safer for him to enlist in the German army instead.

Pino had a chance to meet with Tullio who remarked that he looked more mature and had grown handsome. If Tullio is arrested, he would be tortured by his German captors.

Porzia, Pino's mother, has grown desperate to keep him safe and ordered him to join the ranks of the Nazis. Pino objected, but Porzia declared that since he was still a minor, he had no choice but to do as she says.

Chapter Fourteen

Pino now belonged to the German armed forces. He witnessed a fellow soldier die from shrapnel-caused injuries in a military camp. He was surrounded by more dead bodies and severely injured men. When he looked down, Pino saw that his index and middle fingers were almost severed. He examined them, and he fainted when he saw that they were hanging now only by skin and ligament.

Pino felt weak both in body and spirit. The teenage boy who had left Casa Alpina was unrecognizable next to the person he was now. He dropped by his aunt's luggage store on his walk back home. Outside, he spotted a Nazi vehicle which didn't seem to run properly. Pino inspected the engine and began the repairs to make the vehicle operational once again. The German

officer inside the store saw his skills and approached him to ask for his assignment orders. The officer then offered Pino a job as his personal driver.

Pino did not know at the moment, but the man he had spoken with was General Leyers—second in command of the German occupation in Italy, just two steps beneath Hitler in terms of power.

Uncle Albert remarked that with such access to classified information, Pino has become the resistance's spy in the Nazi High Command.

Chapter Fifteen

Pino was reminded by his uncle and his aunt to never reveal to anyone—not even his own parents—that he worked as a spy. Once, he was given a particular task that led him to see Anna again. Anna had been working as a maid to Dolly, General Leyers' mistress. Pino hoped that the General would visit Dolly more often so that he could spend some time with Anna.

General Leyers was rather stern with Pino. He would always make him wait and didn't allow him to speak. Once again, Pino found comfort in his thoughts of Anna. One day, he saw men in dull uniforms doing heavy manual labor. He spoke to Antonio, a boy about his age working with the rest of the uniformed men, and discovered that all of them were slaves.

Chapter Sixteen

Pino learned that Antonio was not Jewish and that even non-Jews were kept by the Germans as slaves. General Leyers returned before Pino and Antonio could finish their conversation. Leyers ordered Pino to stop giving food and water to the men in uniform.

Pino drove the General to Mussolini's house where a meeting that consisted only of high-ranking officials was to be held. Claretta Petacci, the mistress of Mussolini, was included as well. Pino provided a rundown of the meeting to his Uncle Albert who was glad to pass the information to the Allied forces. Discussed during the meeting was the resolution of the factory strikes in exchange for a seat for Mussolini at the table of Kesselring as well as a phone call from Hitler himself.

Pino was catching up with his friend Carletto when an attack was launched against German soldiers. Fifteen soldiers died and the people nearby were injured, including Mr. Beltramini who was hit by shrapnel. The dying man saw the swastika Pino wore on his arm and called him a traitor. Pino was shattered upon seeing Mr. Beltramini die right before his eyes. His heart broke even more when he realized that he had also lost his friend, Carletto, because of his decision to join the German army.

Chapter Seventeen

General Leyers had Pino drive him to the apartment of his mistress Dolly and stayed the night. Dolly let Anna take some food for Pino to eat in the General's vehicle. Anna then kept Pino company. The following day, Leyers ordered Pino to bring him to the office of Cardinal Schuster. The General made a threat to kill local men until someone handed them information about the people who plotted the assault on the German soldiers. Pino was aware that the Cardinal recognized him, but he asked him not to say a word.

Back at the German prison, the men caught collaborating with the resistance were made to count by tens, and every tenth person was executed. General Leyers announced that the killing would continue until he had the names of those who instigated the attack.

The young cleric, Giovanni Barbareschi, was not included in the initial selection. Those who weren't as lucky, including Tullio, were executed by firing squad. Tullio stood at the back of the group of prisoners, and he cried his renouncement of the Nazi forces. Pino could only watch in terror as Tullio was executed.

Chapter Eighteen

As Pino waited for the shooting to stop, he stifled his horrified screams by the crook of his arm. He recalled the teachings of Father Re and began to pray for mercy to the Blessed Mother. General Leyers found Pino soon after, and they were back on the road again.

Leyers planned to take Dolly out for dinner, and Pino felt disgusted when he

heard this. When they reached Dolly's apartment, Pino saw the two in an altercation. Leyers was wearing a sleeveless undershirt when he walked out of the room. Something caught Pino's eye, but he couldn't tell exactly what was odd. He stared at the General for a moment longer and finally recognized what didn't fit the picture.

Anna approached Pino to ask about the massacre of the members of the resistance. She listened in dread as he recounted the slaughter. She invited him to dinner and proceeded to set a table in the kitchen. The two talked and enjoyed each other's company over gnocchi, schnitzel, and wine.

Pino excused himself to the bathroom but went instead to the bedroom shared by the General and his mistress. He searched through their personal belongings and found a large jewelry box. Inside, Pino saw what he had been looking for: a thin chain with a key which opened the general's valise.

Pino was caught pocketing the key, and Anna accused him of being a thief. He was forced to admit that he was a spy for the resistance, and he pleaded Anna to tell no one about his secret. To Pino's surprise, Anna became his accomplice. He produced an imprint of the key out of wax while Anna looked on. He placed the key back into the jewelry box and returned to the kitchen.

Pino was delighted when Anna sat on his lap and gave him a kiss. They shared another kiss and opened their hearts to one another. When Pino asked about Anna's childhood, she seemed hesitant to disclose her past.

Chapter Nineteen

Pino came home to the family apartment and found out that Mimo had already returned from the mountain retreat to become part of the resistance. Pino stood against Mimo's decision, for he was too young to fight. Mimo noticed the Nazi swastika on Pino's uniform, and he accused his brother of betraying Italy. Pino, unable to admit being a spy, said nothing and accepted Mimo's rage.

Fifteen days later, Leyers had Pino drive him to the site where the uniformed slaves mixed cement, placed tank traps, and did other heavy labor by hand under the scorching sun. Pino witnessed the slaves being whipped and

beaten. He watched as men collapse one by one and were left to die in the sweltering heat. Pino then recalled the time when General Leyers was called a slave master by Antonio.

Pino narrated the horrors he had witnessed then his Uncle Albert shared another story of the Nazis' atrocities: priests killed at the altar, entire congregations slaughtered in the churchyard, and other cold-blooded massacres.

As Pino drove General Leyers around, they came across a British spitfire airplane that focused fire on their vehicle. Pino, having been trained by Alberto who was an aspiring racecar driver, managed to evade the machine gun's assault. However, they had to abandon the vehicle eventually because the barrage of bullets shredded the steel and broke all the glass.

Chapter Twenty

General Leyers began to open himself up to Pino after being saved from the aerial attack. He acknowledged Pino's remarkable courage and expertise in maneuvering, even stating that a lesser driver would have failed to spare the both of them from certain death. Leyers compared Pino to his son and to his nephew who was killed while riding inside a tank with the Desert Fox, Field Marshal Rommel. The General shared even his personal life and declared that he would neither divorce his wife nor marry Dolly. For the first time ever, Pino was treated by the Nazi—although intoxicated—with a sense of familiarity.

Pino and Anna's special moments transpired in the kitchen while General Leyers frolicked with his mistress. Anna shared to Pino that when she was only nine years old, she and her father rode their boat into the storm and that he accidentally fell into the raging sea.

Leyers ordered Pino to bring him to the farm areas where the Nazis stole livestock, vegetables, and grain headed for the mills. He told Pino that to the Italians, he was a hated thief while to the Germans, he was a revered hero.

Chapter Twenty-One

Pino then drove the General to the railway station where the resources looted from Italy were sent to Germany. The Italians had to endure long waiting lines for even the most basic of food supplies while the Nazis continued to take machinery, agricultural products, and other valuable items without heed. Pino finally saw the famous Platform 21 in which Jews and other rejects boarded to be sent out of Italy. The General told Pino that they were all going to work camps, and Pino pondered whether that meant they were simply going to be slaves. He recalled how the Nazis massacred people in Meina and how many other places across Italy were now desecrated. Through the railway carriage, Pino gazed at the eyes of the captive Jews and listened to their cries. He saw the tiny fingers of the children reaching between the slats of the car. One child even seemed to wave as the car started slowly towards its destination: Auschwitz. General Leyers appeared to have been bothered by the sight of children swaying their short arms through the slats.

Pino drove the General for a meeting with Mussolini, who was still caught in an argument with his wife Rachel over the phone about his mistress. Later on, Pino watched as looted gold was bestowed upon General Leyers, who fired a shot at each of the four witnesses to the gold transfer. Pino drove Leyers to Dolly's apartment afterwards, and he was given permission to use Leyers' vehicle to take Anna out on a date.

Anna wanted to take a picture, so she urged Pino to use a headband. He hesitated but eventually agreed. She later revealed that her mother had blamed her for the untimely death of her father. Her mother miscarried multiple times, and Anna was blamed for that too. Anna's mother even called upon the Catholic Church to exorcise her, and she grew up thinking that something was not right with her. She questioned Pino about Father Re. He eagerly told her about him and his work at Casa Alpina. He also shared his experience seeing children held inside the rail cars of Platform 21. Pino was glad that he had someone to talk to. His younger brother and his best friend hated him because they thought he was a Nazi, and his long-time friend was publicly executed by a firing squad. Anna was all Pino had right now, and she has opened her heart to accept all of Pino.

PART FOUR: THE CRUELEST WINTER

Chapter Twenty- Two

The ruthless winter was a time of hardship and scarcity for the troops who were still fighting an ongoing war. Leyers continued to steal from the Italians for the resources of the German troops. Pino was asked by Uncle Albert to proceed into his family's apartment, splice an illegal radio, and transmit their message using a German antenna to avoid being detected. Aunt Greta considered the mission to be too dangerous for a young boy like Pino. Uncle Albert then sent Pino to his father to admit that he was working as a spy. When Pino asked whether Michele was willing to cooperate, Michele said that he was proud of him and said that he would keep the radio. Pino also requested his father not to say a word to Mimo about his participation in the resistance.

Pino and Anna decided to bring the radio into the apartment together. They were almost caught during an inspection conducted by SS agents in the area. In order to distract the German soldiers, Anna acted like a naughty woman involved in a tryst with Pino. They would have been sentenced to death if the SS agents had found the radio in their possession.

Anna finally let Pino into her past. She revealed that her mother had forced her to marry an army officer whom she had never met. They had spent only three days in Italy as husband and wife before he went away to North Africa. The man was killed there, and Anna was now a widow. Pino responded by saying that her story made him only love her even more. Anna lit some candles and passed Pino a bottle of wine. The two rested in the living room, on a bed made of cushions and pillows where they first made love.

Chapter Twenty-Three

Pino and Anna were awakened by Mimo arriving unannounced in the apartment. His face was wounded—a gash caused by German soldiers. Mimo began to harangue Pino for choosing the Nazis and even called Anna a whore. He berated them saying that they were defiling Christmas morning for lying naked together inside the family apartment. Anna begged Pino to

tell his brother about his service to the resistance. Pino refused, fully aware of the many dangers that the truth could bring to the family.

Pino was back on the road with General Leyers who appeared distracted. Leyers even hinted that the war was coming to an end and that Hitler would soon be defeated. He mentioned that Germany was at the brink of an economic collapse and noted how their military's defensive posture indicated that they were losing the war.

Pino managed to bring General Leyers' valise into Uncle Albert's luggage shop and used his duplicate to unlock it. They began to read through the valise's contents, including a letter Leyers himself had written suggesting the forthcoming defeat of the Nazis. Pino was ordered to halt by Colonel Rauff and other SS agents while he was walking back to the vehicle with the valise. They asked him about it, and Pino replied that he had simply brought it for repairs in his uncle's luggage shop. Rauff bought the story and let Pino pass.

Pino arrived at Dolly's apartment where a distressed General Leyers was laying a hand on his mistress. When he returned home, he got a call from his mother requesting him to go to the cemetery and recover the remains of Gabriella, the daughter of Porzia's best friend, who died at the hands of the Nazis. Pino brought the lifeless body of Gabriella so that her mother would be able to hold an appropriate funeral. When he found her at the cemetery, he carefully wrapped her in cloth and asked God for strength to be able to perform the task. Pino passed by numerous decapitated bodies as he walked back with Gabriella's body.

Chapter Twenty-Four

When Pino arrived with Gabriella's lifeless body, Porzia's best friend began crying hysterically. Pino was overwhelmed by the sight of decapitated bodies and by the burden of having to carry the remains of a young girl. He sought Father Re for comfort and even confessed the terrible acts he faced in the war. Pino also shared about Anna and his intent of asking her to be his wife.

Pino brought General Leyers to the train station where a woman carrying her sick child was boarding on Platform 21. They were ordered out of the train when the General heard about the sick child. He offered to save the

child, but only the child. The mother agreed, and Pino and Leyers immediately brought the child to Cardinal Schuster's care.

Chapter Twenty-Five

Leyers informed Pino that he would relocate Dolly to Innsbruck to keep her safe and that Anna would have to come with her. Anna promised to Pino that she go back to Milan whenever she could. Thick snow covered the streets, and for a moment, Pino was hopeful that Anna wouldn't have to move away at all.

Pino came with General Leyers to a meeting with Cardinal Schuster and Hitler's chief representatives. The Cardinal called the works in Auschwitz an "atrocities" because the slaves were apparently building crematoriums and gas chambers. Pino pictured all the people he had seen at Platform 21 and felt sick to his stomach.

Back in his apartment, Pino was informed by Aunt Greta that Uncle Albert has been taken in by SS soldiers for questioning. They suspected him of aiding the resistance, so his arrest meant torture and possible execution. Michele was worried that Albert would give up information that would become the basis for Pino's subsequent arrest. He insisted that his son leave at once and even offered to provide some money for the moving expenses, but Pino refused. He was now eighteen years old and capable of making decisions for himself. Pino was firm in his resolve to help fight the Nazis, and he was ready to die for the people and their freedom.

Chapter Twenty-Six

Pino was driving General Leyers across the conflict zones when the General admitted he knew the war was finally coming to an end. Once Brenner opened, he planned to deliver his mistress to safety. Seeing that the Nazi war machine has now broken down and that the tanks were giving out, Pino couldn't shake the feeling that the end was approaching faster than the General supposed. Leyers knew that defeat was inevitable, but still he forced the slaves to toil in freezing cold waters.

Chapter Twenty-Seven

Back in the apartment, Pino found Michele and Aunt Greta hiding his cousin, a fighter pilot, from the Nazi troops. As Pino was returning to his vehicle, he felt a gun pressed against head. The person holding the gun was his brother Mimo who admitted that he now knew the truth. He had learned that Pino was actually working as a spy and was sharing information to the Allies. Mimo was afraid that Pino would hurt him because of the fight they had last time. Mimo was relieved after being assured by Pino that he would never harm him. Pino learned from his brother that the war was ending soon, then he planned to turn General Leyers over to the authorities for committing heinous crimes.

Cardinal Schuster called for another meeting to discuss the war's conclusion. It was attended by Mussolini and his mistress, Leyers, and the representatives of the Allied forces. Hitler had made a threat to burn down the entire city of Milan should the battles turn out badly. Their ideal strategy was to force the Nazi troops to retreat with the resulting body count as low as possible. They agreed that Hitler was now out of his mind and no longer fit as a leader. Mussolini soon left with his mistress, frustrated that their interests were not being addressed. Before Pino left his post as the General's translator during the meeting, he informed the Allied leader that the Nazis had already incinerated most of the documents that would prove them guilty of war crimes.

Chapter Twenty-Eight

An impressed Pino watched as Mimo riddled a German lorry with bullets from a machine gun. General Leyers asked Pino to bring him to Dolly's apartment, but instead Pino delivered him to the Allies. The General offered to buy his freedom, but Pino rejected the money. In the evening, Pino went out and drank in celebration.

Chapter Twenty-Nine

The merrymaking which was accompanied by exhilaration, alcohol, and jazz lasted throughout the night. Pino felt sick when he left. After having

recovered, he headed to Dolly's apartment to collect any items the General had left. When he arrived, he saw that the place had been ransacked and that the women were gone. He went out in search of them. He found them grouped with the other women who were held captive by a band of cruel partisans. They called the women "whores" and led them into a courtyard. Pino saw that clumps of Anna's hair were gone and that the lipstick on her face was drawn to make her look like a clown. She was barely clothed, and she continued to beg a hysterical Dolly to tell everyone that she only served her as a maid. Dolly didn't bother saving Anna, and Pino could only watch in terror as Anna was shot right in front of him.

Chapter Thirty

Having seen the love of his life die before his very eyes, Pino was devastated and was filled with guilt for the helplessness of his situation. He was walking through the crowd when he heard partisans calling him a Nazi and threatening his life. At that moment, Pino realized that he had been risking his own life for the same people who took Anna's and now hungered for his.

Chapter Thirty-One

Hollowed by grief and guilt, Pino headed to the cathedral and contemplated on killing himself. Cardinal Schuster saved him in time and told him that taking his own life would not save someone else's. He climbed to the next floor of the colonnade and saw the many unclaimed bodies of the people killed during the uprising. Pino found his cousin and lent a hand to his Uncle Albert to take him back home.

Chapter Thirty-Two

Pino saw Dolly first, still in her bloodied ivory gown, when he searched through the bodies. He found Anna next, and he and saw the bullet hole below her chest and the blood that flowed on her stomach. Pino wanted to take Anna's body home for a proper burial, but Uncle Albert reminded him that the masses would consider him a Nazi supporter and eventually come

after him. The bodies left at the church were cremated and placed in a common tomb. That evening, Pino returned to the colonnade only to discover Anna's body already gone. He passed by many more dead bodies and recognized one as Benito Mussolini's.

PART FIVE: "VENGEANCE IS MINE," SAYETH THE LORD

Chapter Thirty-Three

Once again, Pino was tasked to bring a man to safety by crossing the Alps. The man was an asset of the Allies and had to be delivered to the U.S. forces. He was appalled to discover that the man he was asked to protect was General Leyers. Pino was with Carletto when they came across Tito and his group of thugs. Carletto got his vengeance by killing Tito who had tossed the grenade that murdered his father. When they reached a secluded spot, Pino saw a chance to kill Leyers. As he pointed a machine gun to Leyers, the General told him that he believed Dolly and Anna were still alive. Pino then realized that Leyers had actually planned for the women be brought to safety. The General reminded Pino of the night he was turned over to the Allies. Pino had been ordered to drive back to Dolly's apartment, but instead he got Leyers arrested by the authorities. General Leyers stared at Pino and said, "If there's anyone directly responsible for Dolly and Anna's death, it's you."

Chapter Thirty-Four

Pino spared the General. He completed his mission of delivering Leyers to the Americans. Flashbacks of the horrors he had witnessed and the dead bodies he had seen filled his mind. General Eisenhower had approved Leyers' amnesty and had signed papers warranting his safe transfer to the hands of the Americans. Pino never knew why General Leyers had been so important to the Allied forces.

Aftermath

General Leyers stood in court to receive punishment for his participation in the war crimes, but he served only the minimum sentence. He became a man esteemed in the region and a devout churchgoer. Leyers lived long enough to witness his daughter marry and start a family, and to see his son grow up and finish an engineering doctorate. Michele and Porzia Lella grew

their purse business which they eventually passed onto their children. Cicci rose to fame in the world of high fashion while Mimo established his own sportswear business. Pino stayed with the family business for a while before becoming a prominent ski instructor whose name was recognized throughout the world. He married and divorced twice, and had children in each marriage. Pino was ninety years old at the time of the novel's writing, but his heart still ached at the thought of his past and the love he lost during the war.

MOTIFS

Beneath a Scarlet Sky presents several motifs. Pino was first introduced as the eldest child of a wealthy and cultured family. He was a tall and awkward teenager who found it difficult to attract girls his age. As the story progressed, he grew into a strong and handsome young man. Development was observed not only in his physical appearance but also in his character. He was stripped of his innocence and forced to bear the unspeakable evils he had seen during the war. Growth was a prevalent motif all throughout the story.

The contrast between good and evil is another prominent motif. Cardinal Schuster and Father Re were figures who shone a light in the darkness of the world. They were good people who sought to alleviate the suffering of the oppressed. On the other hand, Hitler and Mussolini were depicted as irrational leaders who lacked moral compass. They led the masses to believe in their absurd ideologies and caused countless deaths of innocent people.

Moreover, the author used structures and scenery as visual motifs of good and evil. During the first chapters of the novel, the cathedral in Milan was illuminated so as to urge pilots not to drop bombs on the historic building. The Alps as well as Casa Alpina and its snow-covered spires served as protection and refuge for the Jews escaping from the Nazis. Conversely, the bombed city was described to be covered in smoke and rubble. The stench of explosives and dead bodies in the streets were in clear contrast to the purity of the cathedral and the mountains which served as sanctuaries.

BOOK THEME

The theme of *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* is mainly about the effects of military operations during World War II. All citizens in Italy felt the effects of war, not just the enlisted men. Tension and conflict were created between family members who joined opposing sides. The story also emphasized that all people, regardless of age, could be vulnerable to oppression. Even those who lived in opulence before the war now had to wait in long lines next to the less fortunate for the daily rations. With the innocents made into slaves and millions of Jews shipped to concentration camps, the people in Milan lost any definition of status. Everyone was made equal, for the war was willing to spare no one.

Thank you for taking time to read this book. We hope you enjoyed or learned something from it.

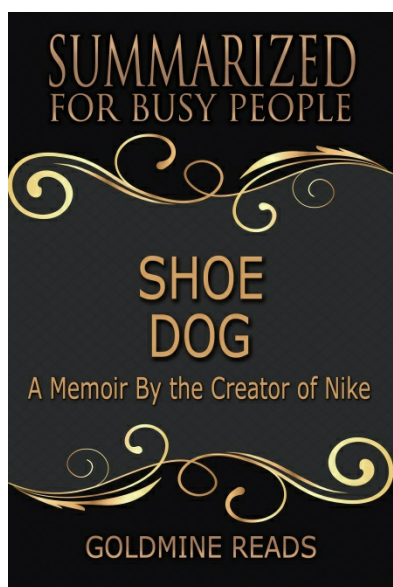
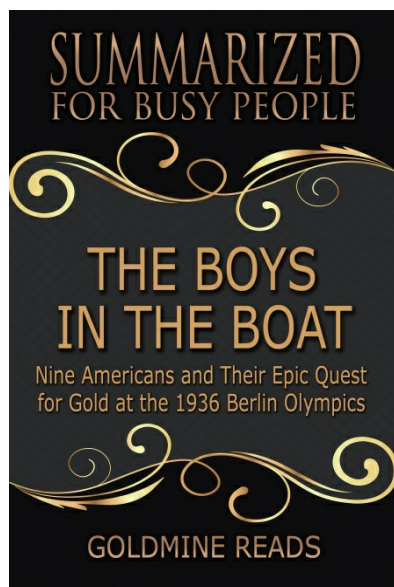
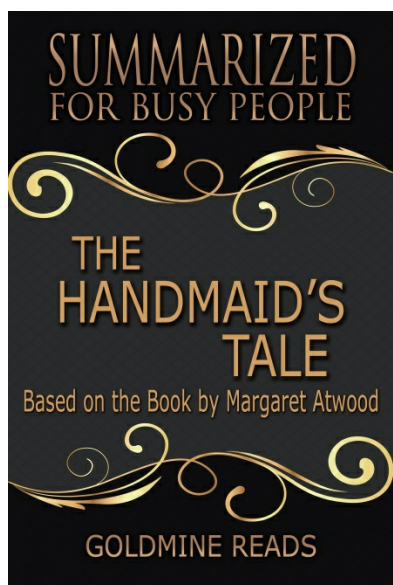
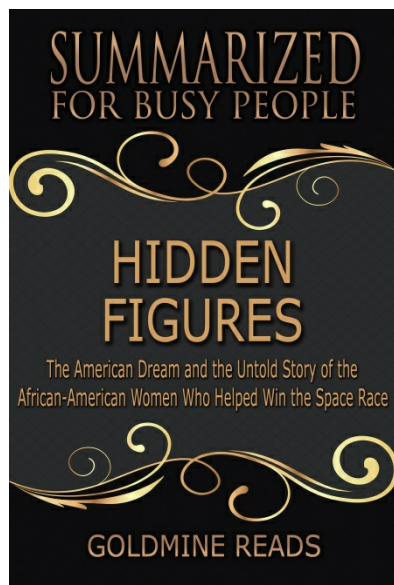


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