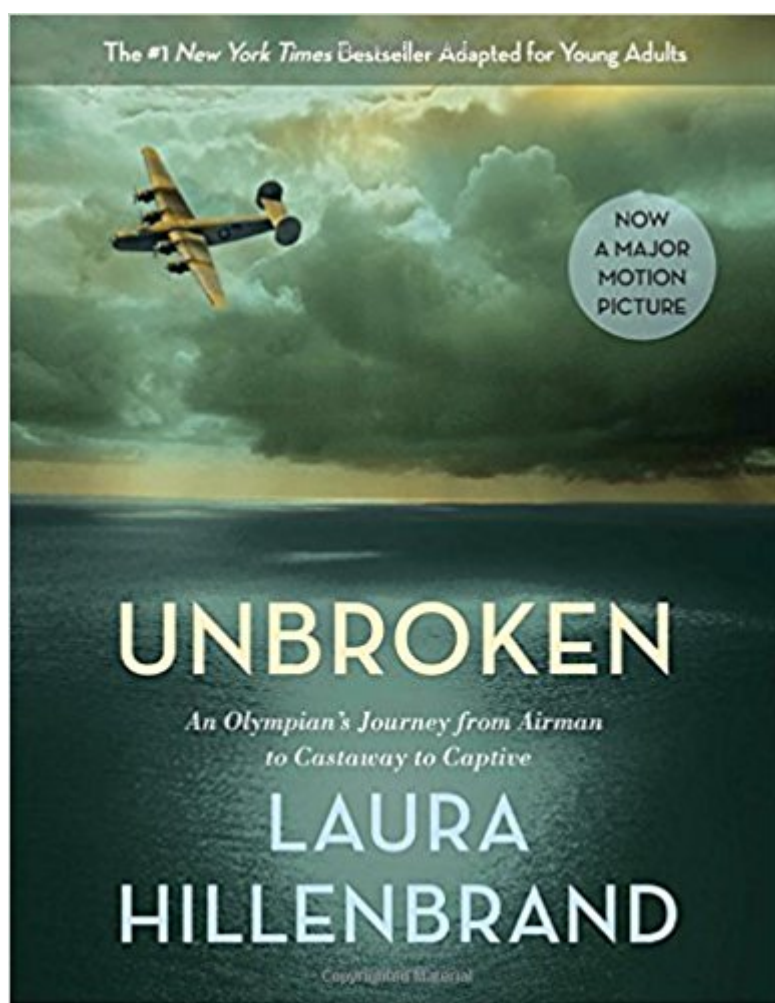


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Unbroken (The Young Adult Adaptation): An Olympian's Journey From Airman To Castaway To Captive



Synopsis

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

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Customer Reviews

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 --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

“This adaptation of Hillenbrand’s adult best-seller 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
“A humdinger of a page-turner: a noble story about the courage of America’s Greatest Generation, personified.”--The Horn Book
Review

My ten-year-old reads well above grade level, but is still reluctant. Like many boys, he just doesn't want to sit still long enough to get through a story! He likes adventure stories, so I thought he would enjoy listening to the audio version of "Unbroken," while following along in the book. No dice. I lost him at the word "dirigible." So I was delighted to learn that a young adult version was on the horizon, and I immediately pre-ordered both the Kindle and audio versions. I am pleased to report that I think this will do the trick. Of course, the first thing I did upon receiving the new version, was to turn to Chapter One to see if the word "dirigible" had been changed! It is now "airship." Then I went back to the beginning and did a side-by-side comparison of both. The changes were immediately apparent: On the first page, the previous version read: Somewhere on the endless expanse of the Pacific Ocean, Army Air Forces bombardier and Olympic runner Louie Zamperini lay across a small raft, drifting westward. The new version read: Somewhere on the Pacific Ocean, American military airman and Olympic runner Louie Zamperini lay on a small raft, drifting. In a nutshell, Hillenbrand deleted "the endless expanse of," and simplified Zamperini's title from "Army Air Forces bombardier," to "American military airman." Looking randomly through the two books, I'm seeing other instances of abridgement, as well as simplified language. I have high hopes that my young reader will now enjoy this story. I'm excited at the prospect, as I think our children need to read more stories about people like Mr. Zamperini. He is easily the bravest, most remarkable person I've ever read about, and a fine example of what we hope our young people will choose to emulate. A final thought: I'm an avid reader, but I wish this version had been out when I read the original. While still long, it is shorter than the first book, and I wouldn't consider this one to be at all "dumbed down." It would not be inappropriate for an adult to read this version instead of the other.

Although I am only 12, I read way above my reading level. I read the original book and it was stunning. It showed the cruelty of war and what war does to people. I loved the first book so much that I decided to read this version. This version is obviously meant for a younger audience, but it still displays the effects of war (although not as much in depth). I would recommend this book specifically to younger audiences because if you are an adult you should read the more complex version as it is more deep. Great read and I can't wait for the movie which is coming out on Christmas eve.

I'm so happy they came out with this version. The original had, to my knowledge, one distinctly descriptive incident which kept the book from appearing on library bookshelves in tens of thousands

of middle and high schools around the country. Nice move to clean up the act and get this story of courage and determination into the minds of teenagers!

Great book! Read at school, good for young adults. Looking forward to reading the full version :)

I originally bought the book for my 12 year old son. As a family of 5 we went to see the movie first. Not my usual protocol. But after the movie, everyone in our family read the book. I appreciated the young adult adaptation because it allowed my son to truly enjoy the message of the book and he was able to focus on the story and not have to "look up" the big words. This book was a big hit in our entire family. My daughters of 19 and 16 also read the book.

I read the book to understand the movie. The book was the young adults version. I loved the ending of the story. This broken man learned to forgive the mistreatment he had received as a POW. Turning to alcohol to drown the pain, all hope to escape the torture was about to end his marriage and purpose for living. By receiving Christ at a Billy Graham Crusade, he could forgive the cruel man who tortured him. He went to deliver the message to the one who had savagely beaten and mistreated him. After reading the book, I heard the movie version did not include this ending. I decided not to go to see the movie. The most important message was deleted.

This is one of the best I have ever read. What courage, what dangers he and his crew faced. The author in telling this story weaves a saga that pulls your emotions to their highest point. He was one of the most remarkable men I have ever read about. American taking prisoners by the Japanese were degraded, beaten, starved, many died due to the mistreatment, lack of food, and diseases they faced. Many were murdered by the Japanese, they faced Hell on earth. The recounting of their time in the raft, that they survived is due to the courage of the men, especially Louie. This book leaves the reader with many questions, could I have survived this ordeal? Could I have forgiving the guards, especially the bird. This is a must read.

Would recommend for all individuals. One man, began like each of us. His life, after 6-7 years was from a juvenile delinquent, to an Air Force commission. From an active duty officer to a crashed crewman. From a crashed crewman. to a rescued one. From a rescued one to a POW. From a POW to a Free Man. From a Freed man to one filled with hate. From a hate filled man to one filled with love. From a return to Japan to forgive his persecutors, to a return to his home and spent not a few

days, but the remainder of his life doing what he pledged to do on the life boat nearly sixty years before. I would challenge any reader to ask himself, or herself, "How would I rate on a scale of 1-10 in making those same choices?" .

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