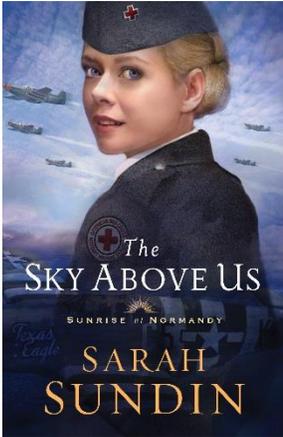




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Author Returns to the Shores of Normandy with Another Heart-Pounding WWII Adventure

“Sundin’s lively book combines heart-pounding war action with inspirational romance to great effect.”
—*Publishers Weekly* for *The Sea Before Us*



Ada, Mich.—In 2018, Sarah Sundin introduced readers to the Paxton family in her Sunrise at Normandy series, which began with *The Sea Before Us*. Sundin now returns to the shores of Normandy in *The Sky Above Us*, where the second Paxton brother prepares to face the past—and the most fearsome battle of his life.

Numbed by grief and harboring shameful secrets, Lt. Adler Paxton ships to England with the US 357th Fighter Group in 1943. Determined to become an ace pilot, Adler battles the German Luftwaffe in treacherous dogfights in the skies over France as the Allies struggle for control of the air before the D-day invasion.

Violet Lindstrom serves in the American Red Cross, where she arranges entertainment for the men of the 357th in the Aeroclub. Drawn to the mysterious Adler, she enlists his help with her work and urges him to reconnect with his family after a long estrangement.

Despite himself, Adler finds his defenses crumbling when it comes to Violet. But D-day draws near. And secrets can’t stay buried forever. Can a Red Cross worker help him heal the wounds that tore his brothers apart?

Sundin has been named on *Booklist*’s Top 10 Romance Novels and her newest book, *The Sky Above Us*, will continue to enchant readers as it artfully blends historical accuracy, battle scenes, and a rich romance.

The Sky Above Us

by Sarah Sundin

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About the Author



Sarah Sundin is the bestselling author of *The Sea Before Us*, as well as the Waves of Freedom, Wings of the Nightingale, and Wings of Glory series. Her novels have received starred reviews from *Booklist* and *Library Journal*. Her popular *Through Waters Deep* was a Carol Award finalist, and both *Through Waters Deep* and *When Tides Turn* were named on *Booklist*’s “101 Best Romance Novels of the Last 10 Years.” Sarah lives in Northern California, where she works on-call as a hospital pharmacist. Visit www.sarahsundin.com for more information.

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Suggested Interview Questions *The Sky Above Us* by Sarah Sundin

***The Sky Above Us* is the second book in the Sunrise at Normandy series. How is this book different from your preceding novel?**

The first novel in the Sunrise at Normandy series, *The Sea Before Us*, looked at D-day from the sea through the eyes of US naval officer Lt. Wyatt Paxton and British “Wren” Second Officer Dorothy Fairfax. In *The Sky Above Us*, we’ll see the buildup to D-day from the air as Lt. Adler Paxton and his fighter group struggle for air superiority before the invasion—and while Red Cross worker Violet Lindstrom serves the airmen. We’ll also see another side of the Paxton family and the tragedies that tore them apart.

You introduce readers to some new characters in your book. Do you have a favorite character?

I have to admit Adler’s best friend, pilot Nick Westin, almost stole the show. He’s very different from any character I’ve ever written, and I like him so much. He lives out the Christian life in a compelling way, patient with Adler when he’s angry and hurting, confronting him when he crosses the line, never judging him for his sin, but gently coaxing him toward the Lord. Plus, he’s funny.

***The Sky Above Us* has some unexpected twists. What was the inspiration behind your creative plot?**

For the action plot, I was inspired by the research I’d done for my first series, *Wings of Glory*, which featured bomber pilots. I longed to write about a fighter pilot—and about the Red Cross workers who served overseas. This allowed me to highlight the aerial aspect of D-day, which is often overlooked.

From a story standpoint, I wanted to explore what it would be like to have committed sins that most would consider unforgivable. How do you live with yourself? How do you seek forgiveness from God and those you hurt? And how do you live with the truth that you might never be reconciled with your loved ones?

Readers and reviewers have often commented on the historical accuracy of your novels. What type of research was required for this book?

This book was great fun for me. I was able to return to the research I’d done on the US Eighth Air Force for the *Wings of Glory* series, but approaching from a new direction. I read the pilot’s manuals for the P-51B Mustang fighter plane and learned how to fly it (on paper anyway—do *not* put me in the cockpit). I read stories of fighter pilots and the 357th Fighter Group. And it was fascinating to learn about the vital role of the American Red Cross overseas. Did you know they served over 1.6 *billion* donuts during the war?

As you researched, did you find anything especially intriguing about D-day or World War II?

I’m constantly amazed how much there is to learn about World War II! Writing this book, I was struck by

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the role the Allied air forces played in the success in Normandy. When we watch footage or movies of D-day, there are no enemy aircraft overheard. Indeed, only two German fighter planes managed to get through to the invasion beaches on D-day. We can only imagine the disaster if the Luftwaffe had been able to attack in force. All this was the result of months of attacks on German airfields, aircraft factories, oil refineries—as well as the famous dogfights. On D-day, over eleven thousand aircraft protected the sailors and soldiers below. I enjoyed shining a light on a little-known aspect of this historic day.

What do you hope readers gain from reading *The Sky Above Us*?

I hope readers see themselves in both Adler and Violet—I certainly did. Adler’s motto is “If it hurts, don’t think about it.” And everything hurts, from the loss of his fiancée to the “unforgivable” sins he committed the night she died. In Adler, I saw myself as a sinner who also does not deserve forgiveness—who does? I felt such compassion for him in his pain and joy as he came into the light.

Violet, on the other hand, is the “good” Christian girl who has always longed to be a missionary. She’s appalled by the crude ways of the airmen at the air base and struggles to serve them. Through events in the story, she comes to see the self-righteousness and judgmental ways that lurk inside—and how devastatingly harmful those sins can be. Her story forced me to confront those same attitudes in my heart.

The theme verse for this novel turned out to be Matthew 20:16: “The last shall be first, and the first last.” This played out in many ways in both Adler’s and Violet’s stories—and in mine as well!

What’s next on your writing to-do list?

Currently I’m writing *The Land Beneath Us*, the third book in the Sunrise at Normandy series. This novel features the youngest brother, Private Clay Paxton, who serves as an Army Ranger on the ground on D-day, and Leah Jones, a librarian and an orphan searching for clues about her past. Can he truly forgive the brothers who wronged him? And will D-day—and a foreboding dream—tear Clay and Leah apart?

How can readers connect with you?

I love to hear from readers! Please visit my website at www.sarahsundin.com. There you can send me a message or sign up for my email newsletter. I’m also active on Facebook (SarahSundinAuthor), Twitter (@sarahsundin), and Pinterest (Sarah Sundin).

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