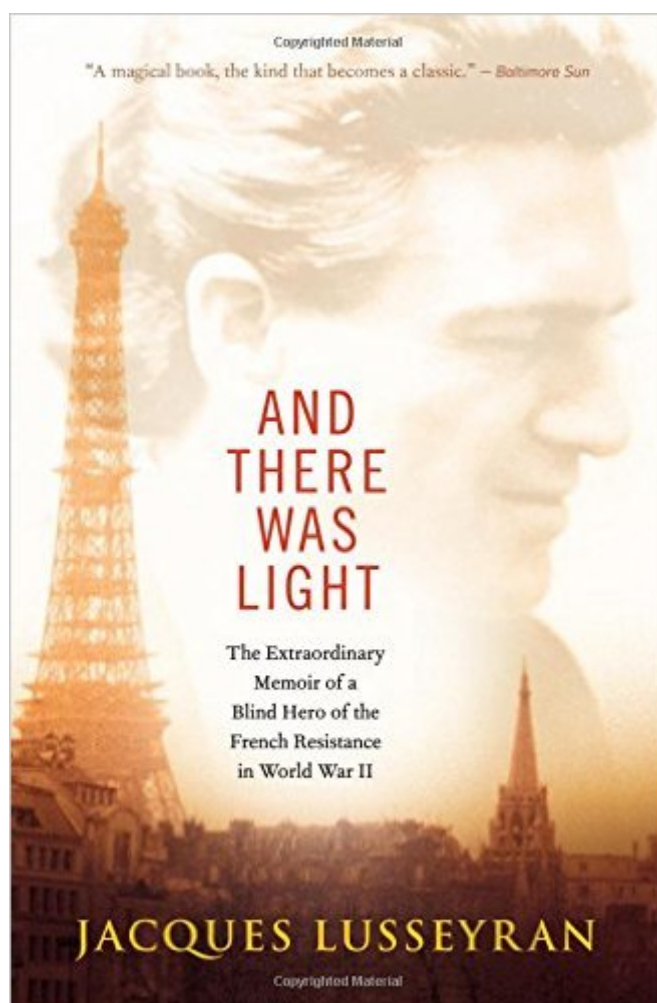


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And There Was Light: The Extraordinary Memoir Of A Blind Hero Of The French Resistance In World War II



Synopsis

The book that helped inspire Anthony Doerr's *All the Light We Cannot See* An updated edition of this classic World War II memoir, chosen as one of the 100 Best Spiritual Books of the Twentieth Century, with a new photo insert and restored passages from the original French edition When Jacques Lusseyran was an eight-year-old Parisian schoolboy, he was blinded in an accident. He finished his schooling determined to participate in the world around him. In 1941, when he was seventeen, that world was Nazi-occupied France. Lusseyran formed a resistance group with fifty-two boys and used his heightened senses to recruit the best. Eventually, Lusseyran was arrested and sent to the Buchenwald concentration camp in a transport of two thousand resistance fighters. He was one of only thirty from the transport to survive. His gripping story is one of the most powerful and insightful descriptions of living and thriving with blindness, or indeed any challenge, ever published.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

His favorite color was green — the color, he later learned, of hope. And hope is what pours over you on every page of Jacques Lusseyran's memoir. It's unavoidable. It's the DNA of the book. For Jacques, early childhood was heaven. He ran. He played. God was — just there. • As he says, — Behind my parents there was someone, and my father and mother were simply the people responsible for passing along the gift. • At 7, he had an accident in school. The shaft of his glasses stabbed his right eye and tore away the tissue. The left eye had sympathetic damage. The happy-go-lucky Paris schoolboy woke up, his eyes bandaged. He was totally blind. And he was

completely happy. Despair, he realized, was simply a matter of "looking the wrong way." In fact, he could see "a radiance [was] emanating from a place I saw nothing about." He could see light, after all. It only faded when he was afraid. The world was still beautiful "indeed, more beautiful. Waves were "arranged in steps." Voices could be caresses. Metaphor was everywhere: "Before I was ten years old, I knew with absolute certainty that everything in the world was a sign of something else." So blindness was an obstacle, but it was also like a drug "it made other senses intoxicatingly intense." They told me that to be blind meant not to see. Yet how was I to believe them when I saw?

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