

“Children of a Good War is like a giant puzzle you think you’ve solved, then find more unsettling pieces. Intelligent and engrossing, hard to put down, London’s best novel to date lingers in your thoughts long after you close it and turn out the lights.” - Joyce Faulkner, winner of the Howard-Johnson Prize for Historical Fiction

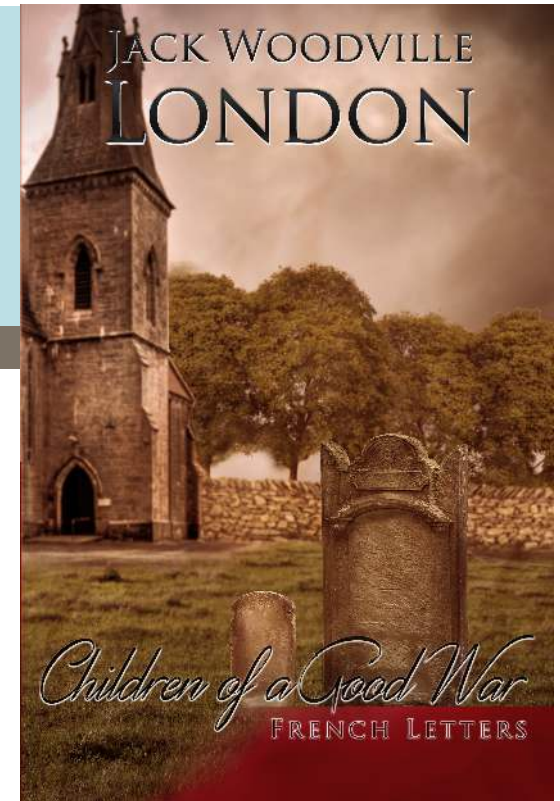
Children of a Good War by by Jack Woodville London

Eleanor Hastings knew from experience that some bombs lie buried for decades before blowing up to do their damage. Now, 40 years after World War II, one such bomb explodes in the form of a cache of faded wartime letters, hidden in a cellar, that confirm the rumors that her husband, Frank, had heard all his life: he really was just a bastard that his father brought back from the war in France. The discovery sends Frank on a quest to find out who he really is - and to uncover his parents' long-buried secrets.

Children of a Good War is the third installment of the trilogy, *French Letters*. The series has been praised for its meticulous research and ability to capture the language, attitudes, and moral culture of their 1940's setting, written in prose that reviewers describe as beautiful and not pretentious, stories that are riveting and real.

Discussion Topics

- Jack was in France on November 11 (Veterans Day) at the Meuse Argonne American Military Cemetery to celebrate its remembrance ceremony for the 100th anniversary of the armistice that ended WWI. Jack placed American Flags on grave sites honoring those buried. It is the largest American military cemetery in Europe, but one of the least visited.
- How do our service men and women communicate with their loved ones back home today? Do they still send “snail mail” or is it all digital now?
- Jack enjoys volunteering teaching veterans (many with PTSD) the conventions and devices of fiction writing; in what ways is this beneficial to our returning service men and women?



BOOK DETAILS

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Fiction

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About the Author

Jack Woodville London is a writer, historian and “Author of the Year” (Military Writers Society of America) who studied the craft of fiction at the Academy of Fiction, St. Céré, France and Oxford University.

His novels are praised for their meticulous historical research and ability to capture the language, attitudes, and moral culture of their setting in prose described by reviewers as ‘beautiful, but not pretentious.’

He has published some 30 literary articles and 50 book reviews for trade publications, all in addition to a lengthy career as a courtroom lawyer and a 40-year writing career, beginning with his appointment as managing editor during law school of the *University of Texas International Law Journal*.

Jack teaches writing classes to veterans who want to learn the conventions and devices of fiction writing so that they, too, can write their stories. He also shares his love of writing with presentations and lectures at writing conferences throughout the United States and abroad. He has presented at the Historical Novel Society Annual Convention; Military Writers Society of America; Historical Novel Society; Southwest Writers; Writers League of Texas; Central Texas Authors; University of Texas, San Diego State, Stanford, Herriott-Watt University in Edinburg, Scotland, and University of Padua, Italy, as well as US DOD schools and Navy bases in Europe.

Jack lives in Austin, Texas, with his wife, Alice, and Junebug the writing cat.

Praise

“Fraught relationships, wartime letters, and complex characters make this a satisfying read.” — Kirkus Reviews

“So beautifully written and its plot so tightly interwoven, *Children of a Good War* is a paean to the humanity shining in each of us and a masterpiece of insight and entertainment that will set the reader’s mind to spinning dizzily until that last riveting paragraph!” — Parris Afton Bonds, founder, Romance Writers of America

“Jack London’s classic French Letters series is as fresh and moving with this third title, *Children of a Good War*, as ever. Its WW II and 1980s small-town Texas setting is evocative and faithfully rendered, and its theme—family secrets and the search for identity—is told with grace and wit. These memorable, flawed, endearing characters will steal a piece of your heart.” — Alana White, Author, *Sign of the Weeping Virgin*, and Historical Novel Society Reviewer

“Frank Hastings chases his biggest story, the story of his life. Frank is a careful, resourceful reporter, and he follows the clues through a labyrinth of false leads before discovering who he really is. In *Children of a Good War*, Jack London has built a fascinating world that gives him ample opportunity to display his erudition and curiosity.” — Fred Zipp, Editor, *Austin-American Statesman*, Professor of Journalism, The University of Texas at Austin

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