



## Blue Skies Tomorrow: A Novel

*Sarah Sundin*

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Lt. Raymond Novak prefers the pulpit to the cockpit, but at least his stateside job training B-17 pilots allows him the luxury of a personal life. As he courts Helen Carlisle, a young war widow and mother who conceals her pain under a frenzy of volunteer work, the sparks of their romance set a fire that flings them both into peril. After Ray leaves to fly a combat mission at the peak of the air war over Europe, Helen takes a job in a dangerous munitions yard and confronts an even graver menace in her own home. Will they find the courage to face their challenges? And can their young love survive until blue skies return?

Filled with daring and romance, *Blue Skies Tomorrow* will capture readers' hearts.

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## Blue Skies Tomorrow: A Novel Details

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Author : Sarah Sundin

Format : Kindle Edition 432 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Christian Fiction, Romance, Christian, War, World War II, Fiction

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# From Reader Review Blue Skies Tomorrow: A Novel for online ebook

## Casey says

What I love about Sarah Sundin's stories is her ability to weave a historical setting as rife with conflict as World War II with a love story that moves my heart and soul with its vibrancy.

There is a delicate balance between too much history and ignoring the love story. Or an overwhelming love story angle with the war as only a distant background. There is a near perfect balance in "Blue Skies Tomorrow".

The character development in this story is amazing. Sundin took her characters to places I don't often see in fiction and I loved it. She delved deep into the makeup of both Helen and Ray, found what made them tick and used it against them. Masterful. It's the only word I can use to describe it.

As the story moved overseas, I thought a bit of the momentum was lost in a few too many historical details, but not much and I didn't lose interest. Turns were made and devastation brought on the characters. I know I'm reading a good book when I become very emotional and this book had me up in arms in the defense of Helen against her in-laws. Sundin took me from the height of anger to the beauty of a new love.

It's a great conclusion to the end of the series and I look forward to more from this very promising author!

This review is my honest opinion. Thanks to the publishers for my copy to review.

\*\*Available August 2011 from Revell, a division of Baker Publishers\*\*

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## Anne says

4.5 stars

Ooooh this was a wonderful, wonderful book!!

And to think that when I first picked it up two years ago, right after having finished *A Distant Melody* and *A Memory Between Us*, I *abandoned it*! Granted, it was only because I wasn't in the mood for a WWII story at the moment, and because I was busy, not because I didn't like it - although I don't remember being sucked into the story as I was when I tried reading it again last week.

My goodness, but I loved it. Definitely my favourite in this series.

Sarah Sundin writes WWII fiction like no other (not that I've really read that much WWII fiction by other authors, but yeah), and if you've seen some of my other reviews (namely the three books in the *Wings of Nightingale* series), then you know I rave about her and recommend her books shouting from the rooftops (not literally, sadly).

*Blue Skies Tomorrow* was the perfect blend of adventure and romance, with a wonderfully well-executed double storyline as the heroine remains in small-town Antioch, California, dealing with battles of her own, while her hero is off fighting the Germans in Europe. I loved Helen, and I absolutely *adored* Ray - what an absolute darling, and seriously, could anyone get any dreamier? I'm very jealous of Helen and desperately want one of his long, luxuriously silky kisses too.

The romance was beautiful; sweet and tender and loving, with cute moments and swoony kissing scenes, but also enough grief, sadness, and hardships to make it all the more sweeter in the end. This was a love founded on strong mutual respect, budding friendship, and deep understanding. It went deeper than the surface-level attraction that often passes for love in CF novels. Ray and Helen's romance was so much more, and given that an ocean separates them for most of the book, this was no small achievement and was made all the more impressive. Sigh <3

The adventure and suspense levels were also superbly well-done; gotta love those air battles, and a hero who ends up stuck in Germany for over two months! It was exciting, real, and I couldn't get enough. I know nothing of planes, much less of B-17 fighters, but let me tell you, you'll definitely learn a lot about them just by reading this book! I didn't really understand it all, and most of the technical terms just went over my head, but it was still very interesting, and I did not find it boring (because, well, I find planes very exciting).

Helen's story was also painfully amazing; I hurt for her, felt for her, sympathized with her. She was as strong and brave as Ray, and made an incredible heroine. I also loved seeing Ray's brothers and family again (they're my favourites), and honestly cried tears of joy at the end of this wonderful story.

I love this book and highly, highly recommend it!!

P.S. - Recommended for mature audience, because, well, war-book, and (view spoiler).

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### **Aerykah says**

Not my favorite couple or book of the series, but I still really loved this book! Helen and Ray are great characters, and I thought they were very well written. I loved seeing their characters change and develop throughout the story.

This book is another example of the wonderful way Sarah Sundin has of balancing history and romance. I love that I can thoroughly enjoy both when I read her books!

I wish that I had time to write a proper review for this book-- I feel that I haven't anywhere near done it justice. Really, let me just say that I highly recommend this book, as well as any of the others I've read by this author because they have all been wonderful! :)

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### **Rita Valamatos says**

Tenho. Tantas. Emoções. Neste. Momento. Oh. Meu. Deus.

'Asas de Glória' é sem dúvida alguma das melhores trilogias que já li. Quem me dera que houvesse mais livros. Adorei tanto estas três histórias e todas as personagens e tudo o que compõe estes três magníficos

livros. Certamente irei relê-los um dia mais tarde. Só acrescentar que... ADOREI.

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### **Lorraine says**

Lt. Raymond Novak prefers the pulpit to the cockpit, but at least his stateside job training B-17 pilots allows him the luxury of a personal life. As he courts Helen Carlisle, a young war widow and mother who conceals her pain under a frenzy of volunteer work, the sparks of their romance set a fire that flings them both into peril. After Ray leaves to fly a combat mission at the peak of the air war over Europe, Helen takes a job in a dangerous munitions yard and confronts an even graver menace in her own home.

This is the third and final book in the Wings of Glory series. Each features one of the Novak brothers, and the brothers are as dissimilar as possible. Ray has always been the meek, quiet one. Now he wonders if he has the bravery to face actual combat. Helen has lived what appears to everyone as a storybook marriage becoming a widow when her husband is killed in combat. Both have demons to overcome and it takes lots of missteps for each of them to become strong enough in their faith to fight their demons.

This was my favorite of the three books. Sundin dealt with some hard topics in this book focusing on spousal abuse and the right and wrong of killing in war time. I felt this book was much deeper and complex than the first two. There were times when my heart was torn in two and others where it melted as Ray and Helen overcame their hurdles. Helen's problems with her first husband broke my heart, and I will never understand how one person could treat another like that. I loved the part that covered Ray's adventure when his flight goes wrong and no one believes him when he returns to base. Great insight by Sundin regarding the problems pilots ditching their planes encountered when they landed in enemy territory.

Overall, a great World War II historical read.

#### **FAVORITE QUOTES:**

"I won't make you deny your past in order to have a future."

"Sometimes the hardest person to forgive is yourself."

"Fear didn't make a man a coward, but rather the inability to act due to fear."

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### **Ângela says**

Ray is not Jack, but it's also amazing.

A full 4\* to this love and war story.

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## **Kellyn Roth says**

[Jim caused Helen to have two miscarriages, and yet she mentions it ... what? A couple times? And doesn't seem to think about it a ton? I'd think that would be MUCH more scarring than anything else she could experience from him. If I w

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## **Olivia says**

Oh my, this was so sweet! And definitely a favorite Sarah Sundin. Helen and Ray's story was amazing! At first it was so emotional that I had to prepare myself to be in tears, but there were so many happy moments too. Ray's scenes in Germany were amazing...I was literally wide-eyed reading them. The Novak brother's interaction was so realistic and brought so many little smiles to my face.

So yep, Ray is my favorite brother ;)

Romance wise, there were a few kisses, a couple slightly detailed. But mainly at the beginning and end. I'm so impressed with the spiritual content. So many lessons to make you think and ponder!!

I highly recommend this to later teens and up. It's full of historical events, and will sweep you away into the 1940s. We just need a movie, and I'll be happy ;)

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## **Hannah says**

I think I might have a book hangover after this...

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## **Margaret Chind says**

I still hold to the opinion that I think A Distant Melody might be one of my favorite books ever. I also quite loved A Memory Between Us. When I first started Blue Skies Tomorrow I was expecting the same feelings from page one, but they were not quite there. However at about the halfway point when a few things picked up, I was once again enthralled and love the writing from Sarah Sundin!! My reading status at about 195 pages in said:

I loved the first two books in the series and say that the first one might even be one of my favorite books ever. This one not so much, but I think it is because I am having such a hard time digesting the character of Jim. Even if he is dead, he is very much active in the lives of the others. Some reason I keep wanting Ray's mother to fix everything. I don't know why but I feel like she could... Yet then after finishing the book, my first thoughts were: Around halfway thru this novel really kicked up and was the same fiction that I love. I cried and rejoiced. Awesome second half to finish. Definitely want more from Sarah.

This is a historical romance that has all of the elements that one's heart looks for and while at the same time bringing forth events of a war time past that are true and hard to accept. Usually I am not a fan of war time novels, but this one captures my heart. Then with the second and third installment with the Wings of Glory

those feelings continue on. War novels are not usually for me, but even with terminology that is a different language to me, the story really comes through and paints an incredible picture. It is a picture that is sometimes gray and sometimes vibrant with blue skies and sometimes a sepia tone with mud, but it's there all the same.

It's amazing how much can be told in such a short amount of pages it seems.

I am delighted to have found Sarah as an author for my permanent shelves of books and I will impatiently wait for the next book and the next!

\*Thanks to Revell Books for providing a copy for review.\*

Originally posted: <http://creativemadnessmama.com/blog/2...>

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### **Sarah says**

Probably the weakest of the series in my opinion, yet still a good story. Ray was my favorite from the beginning and is still one of my favorites.

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### **Michelle says**

Sarah Sundin wraps up a fantastic series with this awesome third book. I remembered some things mentioned in the previous books when the major incident with Ray came down to the wire. I love how the author overlapped the three novels that way. That's not easy to do well, but this author makes it seamless. The setting is also well done from both stateside and Europe. I felt like I was there with them, especially the scenes where there was some flying. I was worried every time they were in the air fighting those missions!

I adored the hero, Ray, and loved his heart for God. I especially loved his heart for Helen. They had some serious chemistry going on there and their interaction was quite potent at times. I loved how Ray had to resist temptation and how needy Helen was because of her past abuse. She was operating out of fear and her desperation was totally believable. I was impressed with the way that Sarah wrote about the domestic violence that Helen had contended with and the subtle message about her having to "fake" so many things to keep the dirty little secret about her deceased husband. That was very well done as was the way the various abused women in the story acted. Most authors don't get so real with the painful truth, but Sundin doesn't hold back, making this book a favorite of mine.

Helen was a sweetheart, too. She, like so many abused women, believed that she somehow deserved it. The abuse is a pathology of sorts and part of the sickness is getting the victims to believe they earned the abuse by being flawed. What Helen had gone through was horrible, but I've met many, many women who were abused in a similar fashion so it was very realistic. Her internal growth throughout the story was uplifting and I sensed her growing stronger as she experienced each victory, no matter how small. I also loved how she wanted to protect her son and all of the ramifications that her tolerating the way she was treated by Jay's grandparents played out. She had choices to make and they all came with consequences.

Honestly, I loved all three books in this series, so they were all special to me for different reasons. It was cool how each brother had a major character flaw that interfered with their spiritual lives and their relationships, and how they essentially killed any future happiness the brothers would have in marriage until their flaws were dealt with. It's awesome how God knows exactly what circumstances we need to find ourselves in so that we'll learn and grow despite the hardships that come our way. It wouldn't be loving for God to allow us to stay the way we are, so He guides things in our lives that cause us to deal with our weaknesses one way or the other. By not doing anything to change we're aren't helping ourselves or the ones we love.

I really loved how the author showed how each character needed to overcome their spiritual obstacles with God and not expect other people to pull them through. In the end it's just us and God, right? Bottom line was this book was well-written, spiritually uplifting, emotionally gripping, and something I could totally related to. I think it will help women who see themselves in Helen's character and will hopefully compel them to do something to change their situation. I highly recommend this story!

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### **Faye says**

Blue Skies Tomorrow is in my opinion everything that a book should be. The emotional depth, the romance, the plot, the action, and adventure, is fantastic.

The plot alone makes this book stand out, I could go on and on for hours about how well done this book was plotted out. The historic settings were rich, and authentic. The history was woven into the story with great care. I think Ms. Sundin got the balance perfectly. The writing and dialog were excellent, I lost myself in the story. There were no over done, mind boggling descriptions, or unwieldy words that can at times jog me from the spell of a story. The focus was wholly on the story and conveying it in a straightforward and natural manner, that swept me back to another time and place.

The characters were so realistic in all their raw emotions. The whole cast shone, not just the main characters, Helen and Ray. I really liked Esther Jones, who though a character with a small role, stood out as a strong woman who loved her husband and stood for what was right.

This book had me on the edge of my seat, staying up way past midnight to find out what would happen next. There were times when I was sure that there was no way out, but Ms. Sundin surprised me many times over. I kept telling myself, "I'll go to sleep when I find a stopping place." The only problem was that there weren't any "stopping places!"



Overall, this was one of the best historical fiction books that I have read in a long time. There were some violent scenes that had to do with Helen's troubled past, and Ray being a soldier in WWII, so that's just a heads up. Also I wanted to say that I haven't read the first two books in the series (but I plan to in the future), and I found this to be a stand alone novel that could be easily picked up out of order and fully enjoyed. I really enjoyed this book, and I hope that you decide to give it a shot. It's worth it! Thanks so much :)

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Thanks so much to Donna Hausler and Revell Publishing company for providing this book to me free of charge in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Megan says**

*Blue Skies Tomorrow* deals with some very difficult issues and I think that Saran Sundin did a great job of writing about them. As with her other books (*A Distant Melody* and *A Memory Between Us*) the main characters have lessons to learn and fears to overcome. This story starts a little bit before where *A Memory Between Us* ends and I really enjoyed reading about some of the happier moments of that book from a different perspective.

I remember while reading *A Distant Melody* how bad I felt for Helen when her husband Jim died, leaving her all alone to raise their infant son. However, after reading this book and knowing what Jim did to her, I now feel relieved that he is no longer around to hurt her anymore. Helen had polio as a child and so she has a slight limp, which Jim used as an excuse for all of Helen's injuries.

When Ray was mentioned in the previous books, I remember that I wanted to know more about him. His background story is sad but in a different way. He was engaged twice but both times it was broken off by the women he was engaged to, leaving him to feel a distrust of women. Ray's family doubts whether he will ever get married and in this book you learn that Ray is beginning to have his doubts about it as well. Like both of his younger brothers, Ray is a pilot; but unlike his brothers, he has never been in combat. He has chosen to stay stateside as a flight instructor, but when the Army makes it a requirement that all instructors have at least one tour of duty, Ray has to choose between a desk job or go to war. Ray takes the desk job, but when he feels that everyone thinks that he is a coward for not going into combat, himself included, he decides to go. This will test Ray like he has never been tested before.

The only thing that I remember not liking about this book was all the details of the planes. Almost every time

a plane was mentioned, there would be a very detailed description of it - I found the repetitiveness of that quite boring. However, I thought that the rest of the story more than made up for it.

*Blue Skies Tomorrow* is a wonderful conclusion to the *Wings of Glory* series. I will miss this family greatly, but what a way to end! While I enjoyed all three books in the series, there was something about this book that I especially enjoyed. I highly recommend this book, but strongly suggest that you read this series in order so that some of the key details aren't revealed to you beforehand.

*I received a copy of this book to review from LitFuse. I did not receive any compensation other than the book. I was not required to give a positive review, but only asked to share my opinion of the book, which I have done.*

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## **Andrea Cox says**

This book was so hard to read. I applaud the author for capturing the controlling personality well. It terrified me and brought back painful memories, making it a challenge to get through the book. I was determined to make it, and I'm glad I did, because finding out what happened to everyone in the trilogy was a neat way to finish it off.

I was confused at first that Ray wasn't already overseas to start off the book. The indication I got in book two was that he had already made it overseas. I didn't realize till over one hundred pages into this story that the books overlapped in the time frame. That was weird to me, and there was no warning (the dates in the headings didn't help me keep it straight, as I didn't read the books back-to-back).

I was appalled at the indication of a man skinny-dipping and a crude comment, as well another comment that was both crude and sexual in nature. There was also a bit of sexual innuendo, which creeped me out.

Something I really loved about this book was that a polio victim was the leading lady. That is something I have never before seen in a novel, and her affliction was highlighted well and used to the best potential within the confines of the story. I wish I could have enjoyed Helen's story more, because she was definitely a character I could root for.

The faith journeys of Helen and Ray were spectacular and well written. Those moments of great growth and clinging to hope were what kept me reading when I wanted to burn the book for all the horrible memories it conjured up.

Other folks who haven't been through controlling and abusive relationships will enjoy this book. Those who have been through those difficulties, please read this book with caution. The characterization is very good, and some characters and scenarios may be disturbing for you. However, there is also oodles of hope for folks who find themselves in those situations. I hope that is the part that shines the brightest for you as you read this book.

Rating: 2 stars

Reasons: This just wasn't the book for me, because of the controlling/abuse issues, though they were written well. There were several things (as mentioned above) that I found creepy or disturbing in some way. Overall, it was an okay book for me. Others will most likely enjoy it.

I was not compensated for my honest review.

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