

ÜBER ALLES

*A Novel of Love, Loyalty, and
Political Intrigue in World War II*

ROBERT ARTHUR NEFF

*“An absolutely riveting account of the lives of two
musical artists.”*

—George Marriner Maull, multiple Emmy-nominated Artistic
Director and conductor of The Discovery Orchestra

*“Succeeds both as an engaging romantic tale and as a
solid look back at WWII. Readers will be well rewarded.”*

—Gregory Coleman, President, BuzzFeed;
former President, Reader’s Digest

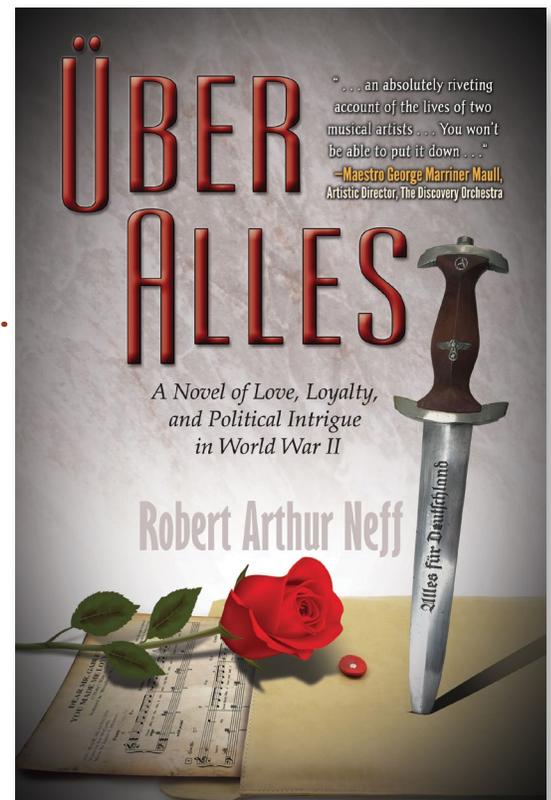
*“Entertaining and readable ... a fully absorbing blend of
history and fiction.”*

—Clarion Review

IN LESS CONFLICTED TIMES, THEY MIGHT NEVER HAVE MET. But as Germany lurches headlong toward World War II, many lives are forced to take unexpected turns.

Dieter, half Jewish beer-hall piano man, and Sofie, daughter of a prominent Wehrmacht general and a Jewish/Polish spy, try to insulate themselves from an ugly time in world history by immersing themselves in music—sensual, provocative, prohibited American jazz. Hunted and desperate, chased in separate directions across Hitler’s ravaged Europe, they finally realize that a daring escape attempt is their only chance.

Robert Neff spins a tale of political intrigue and romance that examines the effects of war on those who find themselves on both sides of the historic conflict.



Publisher: Old Stone Press
Pub Date: 9/15/16
ISBN13: 978-1-938462-25-2 (paperback)
ISBN13: 978-1-938462-27-6 (ebook)
Library of Congress: 2016908559
Format: paperback, ebook
Trim Size: 6 X 9
Page Count: 420
Carton Qty: 18
Illustrations: (7) B&W including maps
Audience: General trade
Price: \$21.95 Retail (paperback)
\$9.99 Retail (ebook)
BISAC Category: FIC032000 FICTION / War & Military
FIC031050 FICTION / Thrillers / Military
Distribution: oldstonepress.com, Amazon, Ingram
and Baker & Taylor

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: From his early years, **Robert Arthur Neff** has thrived on international involvement. Military service, business responsibilities, and personal travels have familiarized him with the locations and events entwined in his historical novel, *Über Alles*, a story he describes as “either a history lesson wrapped in a love story, or the reverse of that.”

Mr. Neff studied engineering, political science, and law at Cornell University, then became a JAG officer in the US Air Force. After his military service, Mr. Neff had the good fortune to find a job with the Rockefeller Brothers’ International Basic Economy Corporation, focusing on Western Europe, the Middle East, and eventually South America, which became Mr. Neff’s home for several years.

Mr. Neff now resides with his wife, Julie, in Pinehurst, NC, and on Beaver Island, MI. They continue to visit other parts of the world frequently, and Mr. Neff has formalized his lifelong interest in writing, drawing extensively upon themes suggested by his work and travels.



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Old Stone Press • 978-1-938462-25-2 • www.oldstonepress.com

Why do you think WWII stories are still popular today?

Aside from its sheer magnitude, WWII was also significantly different from other conflicts because it was experienced universally. An entire nation stepped away from its usual, comfortable lifestyle and joined in the war effort. There is a constant audience for superlatives. George Stevens's *The Greatest Story Ever Told* always played to packed houses. Tom Brokaw christened our participants in WWII as "The Greatest Generation," assuring that there is an audience for new stories.

Are there similarities between composing a novel and composing music?

Many musicians enjoy extemporizing and personalizing their performances—whether playing a jazz standard or a classical masterpiece. Storytellers often have that same desire to add new twists to familiar themes. In *Über Alles*, I

have attempted to construct an appealing tale that also becomes the vehicle for acquainting my readers with interesting information about WWII. Is that the same motivation that prompted legendary saxophonist Charlie Parker to stray from the printed music of "Body and Soul" and afford us a glimpse of his own soul? Perhaps.

How is your WWII novel different from any other WWII love story?

The national loyalties of characters in WWII love stories are usually unequivocal. However, both Sofie and Dieter in *Über Alles* become fugitives within their own nation. Each has one Jewish parent, which places both in jeopardy. That shared danger unites the two young people. However, Dieter's history of homosexuality appears to impose a boundary on their relationship. Sofie's determination to surmount that barrier is a departure from most love stories. The reader is left to answer what IS valued above all else—*Über Alles*. ♥

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