Title: *After All*

 Subtitle: *A Gathering Storm of Romance, Revenge,*



 *and Espionage in Postwar South America*

 Author(s): Robert Arthur Neff

 Illustrator(s): Kathleen Ericson and Daniel J. Middleton

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## Description

*[After all is a sequel to Robert Arthur Neff's debut novel Über Alles, September 15, 2016]*

Two years before the end of WWII, two gifted German Jewish musicians—one a Holocaust survivor who barely escaped the infamous Theresienstadt concentration camp with his life, the other the daughter of a prominent Wehrmacht general—having fled the catastrophic Nazi conquest of Western Europe, where they had been hunted and hopelessly separated, reunite in Brazil. Dieter Meister, barroom piano man extraordinaire, and scintillating chanteuse Sofie von Siegler, the subjects of Robert Arthur Neff's first historical novel, *Über Alles*, seize a second chance at freedom and a life together.

But residual shadows from the war’s conflict soon darken the skies of their bright new world. Determined parties, from a fledgling American intelligence agency to Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal, relentlessly sniff out the trail of Sofie’s father, hiding out in South America. As the net draws tight around Sofie and Dieter, it’s impossible to tell who can be trusted. And the United States, after having assembled a military force unparalleled in history and executed a remarkable strategy for victory, turns out not to be so well prepared for the war's aftermath.

## [Author’s Notes]

When the Axis powers surrendered and the fighting stopped, the United States was both militarily and economically the mightiest nation on earth. Nevertheless, challenges began to arise immediately, mostly from aggressive Communism. On March 12, 1947, President Harry Truman, in a speech to The US Congress, first set forth a policy of containment which was known as “the Truman Doctrine” and was understood to contain the commitment of the United States to come to the aid of free nations whose independence was threatened by such “outside pressures.” There was no paucity of challenges to the Doctrine, leading to the formation of NATO and to the continuing involvement of America in the affairs of Europe, the Middle East, and the Far East.

Perhaps it was this refocusing which sidetracked what had promised to be a natural postwar partnership between North and South America—one continent having every technological advantage and the other with extravagant, unexploited natural and human resources. Had that played out as expected, there might have been an ongoing, parallel effort to pursue and root out escaped former Axis functionaries then living in South America. Instead, the U.S. became involved in the civil strife of Greece and Turkey; the birth pains of nascent Israel; the administration and funding of the Marshall Plan throughout Europe; the recovery and recasting of Imperial Japan and the enigmatic clash of Communism and nationalism in Asia.

Exiled Germans (much like our hypothetical General Otto von Seigler) were soon able to blend into their new nations, whose leaderships often welcomed—or at least overlooked—their presence. President Juan Peron and First Lady Eva Duarte de Peron assumed almost dictatorial powers in Argentina, and prominent Italian and German families thrived there after the war years. “Evita” (who had lamented the early deaths of Gershwin and Mozart in conversation with Sophia in our story) lived an even briefer life, dying at age 33 in 1952. Over the following quarter-century, her corpse was moved secretly among several locations in South America and Europe before final burial in Argentina in 1976.

Booker “Buca” Pittman was known to the author during his working years in South America, and, as portrayed herein, Buca’s big band was considered the finest on the continent. He performed in several countries but always based his band in Brazil, where he died in 1969. His stepdaughter, Eliana, became a popular vocalist in the style of Ella Fitzgerald, and she later gained notoriety as an actress in Rio de Janeiro, where she makes her home.

Francisco “Baby” Matarazzo Pignatari was probably the most charismatic Brazilian of his time. He was bigger than life, incredibly good-looking, and flamboyant in his interactions with people who interested him. He married four times but somehow managed to accommodate and maneuver through scores of public relationships with some of the most beautiful women of the postwar years. All the while, he remained an attentive and successful businessman. If you were in Rio in the late 1950s or early ’60s, chances are you got to be a walk-in guest at one of his incredible parties in the Copacabana neighborhood—or at least to see the people rushing in and hear the music blasting out. Baby continued to amaze with his energy and imagination until his death in 1977, in Sao Paulo. Brazil.

Simon Wiesenthal was the patron saint of the pursuit of escaped Nazis. As described in this story, he sought assistance from the western Allies, but after receiving insufficient support, he created the Documentation Center of the Association of Jewish Victims of the Nazi Regime. It was a major repository of the personal stories of persecution recounted by thousands of Europe’s surviving Jews, and it was helpful in keeping the pressure on major Nazi offenders scattered throughout the world. Mr. Wiesenthal’s name became synonymous with that pursuit, which he continued until his death at age 96 in Vienna.

I have included cameo references to two friends, who played important roles during the postwar period covered by this novel. The first, USAF Lieutenant General William Tunner, directed the miraculous Berlin Airlift, which defied the Soviet Union’s bold attempt to swallow Germany after the war and thereby kept alive the hope for European survival and

independence. Gen. Tunner was my commander during my Air Force active-duty years, and he later became a fellow director of Seaboard World Airlines, which company was my working identity for sixteen wonderful years.

There is also a brief reference to Nelson A. Rockefeller, New York State Governor and Vice-President of the United States. Mr. Rockefeller was an early advocate of US partnership with the South American countries, and he made strong personal commitments to the economic and social advancement of that continent. I was privileged to work with the Rockefeller interests in South America and to live there for several years, which yielded some personal insights helpful in writing this novel.

Finally, please allow me to add a personal note to my readers. This sequel was written in large part to respond to requests from readers of *Über Alles*. Many of them expressed their appreciation of the characters I had created for inclusion in that earlier novel, and felt I should follow those characters deeper into their lives in a sequel. In so doing, I have allowed each to make some mistakes or to exhibit traits that may dull some of their luster for those readers. Dieter, Sofie, Elsa, Lilka, and Otto von Seigler would not be “real” if they didn’t stumble occasionally—just as you and I. Life is not about maintaining perfection, but about dealing with imperfection when we recognize it or are guilty of it.

My characters and I thank you for your interest in us, and we wish you well….

 ….until we meet again.

Robert Arthur Neff

Pinehurst NC 2019

## Author/Editor Bio

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 debut 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 he “entered the real world” as a JAG officer in the US Air Force. After his military service, Mr. Neff knew that he wanted a business career that would continue expanding his knowledge of many

cultures and countries. He had the good fortune to find just such 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. Laurance Rockefeller’s participation in the airline industry yielded a welcome opportunity for Mr. Neff. He became an officer and director of Seaboard World Airlines, a major all-cargo airline with contracts with the US Department of Defense. Seaboard and the Flying Tiger Line later merged and eventually became an integral part of the Federal Express Corporation, from which Mr. Neff is a retiree.

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. Favored leisure activities include playing jazz standards on his oversized grand piano; watching and playing tennis, and enjoying the uncomplicated attractions of Nicaragua’s Pacific Coast, where he does much of his serious writing.

## Publicity and Promotion (initial budget $7500)

Book signing dates to come

NetGalley, Foreword Reviews, Kirkus reviews, Publishers Weekly space advertising through ibpa promotional packages including libraries and independent bookstores and social media [Twitter and Facebook] and publishers website: https://oldstonepress.com/library/after-all/

## Awards

Applied

## Author Appearances

Coming fall of 2019

## Distribution

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## Media Contact

John Clark, publisher

**Old Stone Press**

E: john@oldstonepress.com

P: 502.693.1506

W: <http://oldstonepress.com/>

## Marketing Materials

High-resolution cover images are available at oldstonepress.com

## Websites/Social Media Links

Author Web page: https://oldstonepress.com/library/after-all/

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UberAlles9781938462252/>

Amazon.com