



GLOBAL SHORTWAVE CLUB

Newsletter

President

William G Davis Jr

Contact Us!

Don't forget to call or write to us at least once a month. We welcome more if you have time!

Phone Numbers

315-775-8790

Address

Global Shortwave Club
PO Box 973
Abingdon, Md. 21009
U.S.A.

Visit our website!

www.ictchurch.org

We have a whole area dedicated to our Global Shortwave Club members. You can also find our current frequencies and times!

Current Radio Schedule

WWCR
Worldwide Christian
Radio

Monday through Friday
5.890 - 0300 UT
13.845 - 1800 UT

Saturday
4.840 - 0200 UT
12.160 - 1700 UT

Sunday
4.840 - 0200 UT
9.350 - 2100 UT

All the Light We Cannot See

I am excited to recommend a mini-series (four shows about an hour long) telling a story I think most shortwave listeners would enjoy. *All the Light We Cannot See* is on Netflix, with shortwave radios at the center of its story. It takes place in the final days of WWII when the paths of a blind French girl and a German soldier collide. Based on Anthony Doerr's Pulitzer Prize-winning bestseller.

All the Light We Cannot See traces the stories of three characters whose lives intersect during the bombing of the German-occupied French town of Saint-Malo in August 1944. Marie-Laure Leblanc grew up in Paris, where her dad, Daniel Leblanc, works at the Museum of Natural History. As a young girl, Marie-Laure goes blind, but her dad teaches her to navigate their neighborhood independently by building a scale model of the neighborhood where she uses her hands to learn the town. In June 1940, when she was 12 years old, the German army entered Paris without resistance. Marie-Laure and Daniel flee from Paris to Saint-Malo, where they move in with her great-uncle, Etienne, and his sister, Madame Manec.

Unbeknownst to Marie-Laure, Daniel carries a significant item, a legendary diamond called the Sea of Flames, owned by the Museum of Natural History. Once in Saint-Malo, Daniel worked to build a scale model of the town so that Marie-Laure could learn to navigate her new surroundings. In December 1940, Daniel returns to Paris, and on the journey there, a Nazi official named von Rumpel, who is searching for the legendary Sea of Flames diamond, imprisoned and interrogated him.

Madame Manec has organized many French townspeople into engaging in acts of resistance against their German occupiers. Although Etienne is initially hesitant, he and Marie-Laure eventually begin to participate. Etienne has a unique contribution: a powerful shortwave radio transmitter hidden in the attic of his house. Before the war, Etienne used it to broadcast science programming for children. Now, he uses the radio transmitter to broadcast codes and messages to thwart the German war effort. This action allows him and Marie-Laure to remain hopeful, even after Madame Manec died in 1942.

Meanwhile, a boy named Werner Pfennig grows up in an orphanage in Germany with his sister, Jutta. Werner has an extreme gift with mathematical, technological, and scientific knowledge.

Werner teaches himself to repair and rebuild electronics, allowing him to hear a mysterious French program where a man explains scientific concepts in simple language. As the Nazi party comes to power in Germany, Werner's talents attract local attention, and when he is fourteen, a German officer forces him into a specialized training school, hoping the opportunity will give him a brighter future, but Jutta fears that Nazi ideology will corrupt her brother. At school, the students and teacher expose Werner to cruelty and brutality.

Eventually, his teacher discovers Werner's talents and, for the next two years, sends him to the German front lines to track down any civilians who use illegal radios in occupied German territory. Although Werner tries to ignore the moral conflict he experiences, he is particularly horrified when one of his fellow soldiers kills a woman and a young child. By spring 1944, he and his colleagues are sent to Saint-Malo, where he hears Marie-Laure reading *A Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* on the same frequency (13.10) as the scientist he heard as a child. Werner tries to keep this information secret, but his new commanding officer discovers that Marie-Laure is broadcasting secret codes and forces Werner to find and kill her.

During this same time, von Rumpel seized and cataloged jewels from occupied German territories. He becomes obsessed with finding the legendary Sea of Flames, mainly because he has cancer and believes the diamond will grant him immortality. Since Daniel Leblanc did not divulge the location of the diamond during interrogation, von Rumpel traces the stone to Daniel Leblanc's last known residence, Saint-Malo, and seizes the opportunity to force Marie-Laure to give him the diamond. When she hears a stranger enter the house, Marie-Laure barricades herself in the attic and defends herself with a handgun her uncle taught her how to use based on her sense of hearing.

In August 1944, Allied forces began bombing Saint-Malo, affecting all three characters: Werner is now Etienne's prisoner, and they are in Etienne's basement when a bomb hits the house. Unable to help Marie-Laure defend against von Rumpel, Etienne sends Werner, who rushes to the house. Does Werner reach Marie-Laure in time to save her? Does von Rumpel find the Sea of Flames? I will not spoil the ending for those who may decide to watch it. If you choose to read the book, it has a much different ending than the mini-series.