List of Characters

Hermann Göring. Real life persona and a WWI flying ace. He joined the Nazi party in the early stages and was considered Hitler's right-hand man. Göring is clever, manipulative, and has an appetite for expensive artworks.

Jack Swaggart. American bomber pilot, 30ish, and stationed in northern France. He is dependable, energetic, and genuinely cares for his crew. After getting shot down, he finds himself on the run, pursued by a relentless Gestapo agent.

Horst Kloster. Former fighter pilot in the *Luftwaffe*. He was demoted and kicked out of the service for his romantic indiscretions. He's a risk taker, flamboyant, unpredictable, and quite ruthless. Kloster is Jack's nemesis.

Hilde Augsberg. Only twenty-five years old, she's unmarried and employed as the mayor's secretary in Oranienburg. She is a people person, but also organized, resourceful, and dependable.

James Buchanan. A Canadian, he hails from Winnipeg, Mb. He joined the RCAF in 1943, and is now attached to the War office in London. He's loyal, dependable, and Jack's friend.

Otto Saufman. An egotistical Nazi. Ambitious, opportunistic and dangerous. Worse yet, Otto is unhappily married, has low moral standards, and in pursuit of Hilde.

Gertrude Augsberg. Gertrude lives in Oranienburg, a town in close proximity to Berlin. She's Hilde's mother and becomes instrumental in helping Jack escape the Gestapo.

Charles "Chuck" Boyer. Charles is not to be confused with the famous French film star. Chuck is an American and Jack's co-pilot. A natural leader with a non-nonsense approach, he's dependable, heroic and not one to step away from a challenge.

Heinrich Schinkel. He stems from pure Aryan lineage but a lower-class background. Through sheer determination, he attained the rank of major in the SS, or *Sturmbannführer*. A stickler for rules, he loathes insubordination. He's Kloster's boss.

Alfred Hiller. 50ish and mild-mannered, he is a Roman Catholic parish priest and presides over the Church of St. Nicholas. He is Schinkel's brother-in-law and supports the church's position of co-operating with the Nazi regime. He places high value on family.

Fritz Kolbe. Fritz is forty-five years old and short in stature. He is a German bureaucrat, but by no means diminutive in his accomplishments. He loathes the Nazi party and spies for the Allies.

Andreas Bauman. A Luftwaffe pilot and in love with Hilde. He's smart, generous, but emotionally reserved. He's naïve to the political situation in Germany and becomes torn between his loyalty to the *Führer* and a crumbling Germany.

Siegfried Knemeyer. A colonel in the German military, and involved with RLM, Germany's innovative fighter development program. He's under immense pressure to develop and implement *wunder* weapons capable of inflicting horrendous damage.

William Sochalski. William is only15 years old but mature beyond his years. He's a Jew living under Hitler's threat. He managed to escape a train bound for a concentration camp and accidentally met up with Jack. They team up against a common foe.

Erwin Ziller. Erwin is a real-life person. He's a fighter pilot and was accepted into the Horten test-pilot program, much to Kloster's chagrin. He's an all-around good guy but fails to recognize Kloster's vindictiveness.

Bryan Shelby. A Navy man seconded to the War Office in London. Bryan, a Lieutenant-Commander in Britain's Navy, works alongside James Buchanan.

Rudi Schultz. Rudi comes across as unassuming and reserved. He's employed as a clerk at Oranienburg's military commissary. A communist sympathiser, he's adept at ferreting out information. He's Hilde's friend and becomes sympathetic to Jack's cause.

Wilhelm Vogel. Vogel is Kloster's right-hand man. He's unscrupulous and ambitious. He relishes doing Kloster's dirty work.