

University of Pardubice
Faculty of Arts and Philosophy

**Comparison of Literary Versions of World War II. in
Contemporary Novel**

Tereza Tomanová

Bachelor Thesis

2021

Univerzita Pardubice
Fakulta filozofická
Akademický rok: 2019/2020

ZADÁNÍ BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

(projektu, uměleckého díla, uměleckého výkonu)

Jméno a příjmení: **Tereza Tomanová**
Osobní číslo: **H18320**
Studijní program: **B7310 Filologie**
Studijní obor: **Anglický jazyk pro odbornou praxi**
Téma práce: **Srovnání literárních verzí druhé světové války v současném románu**
Zadávací katedra: **Katedra anglistiky a amerikanistiky**

Zásady pro vypracování

V teoretické části práce se studentka zaměří na kulturní a historickou charakteristiku období 2. světové války v Británii, především na aspekty důležité pro analýzu primárních děl. Představí také literární kontext historického románu, do něhož zasadí zvolené autory. V praktické části práce pak bude reflektovat tyto své poznatky ve vlastních kritických analýzách a srovnáních zvolených primárních zdrojů.

Rozsah pracovní zprávy:
Rozsah grafických prací:
Forma zpracování bakalářské práce: **tištěná/elektronická**
Jazyk zpracování: **Angličtina**

Seznam doporučené literatury:

Benioff, David. *City of Thieves*. Penguin Putnam Inc, 2020. Shaw, Irwin, *The Young Lions*. The University of Chicago Press, 2000. Waters, Sarah, *The Nightwatch*. Little, Brown Book Group, 2006. Waugh, Evelyn, *Put Out More Flags*. Penguin Classics, 2011. Entwistle, William, *The Literature of England* Gilbert, Martin, *The Second World War, A Complete History*. Holt, 1989 Twentieth, *The 20th Century English Literature: a so-
vie*, 1982 Encyclopedia, *Encyclopedia of World Literature in the 20th Century (Vol. 4, R to Z)*. Ungar, 1984

Vedoucí bakalářské práce: **Mgr. Olga Roebuck, Ph.D.**
Katedra anglistiky a amerikanistiky

Datum zadání bakalářské práce: **30. dubna 2020**
Termín odevzdání bakalářské práce: **31. března 2021**

doc. Mgr. Jiří Kubeš, Ph.D.
děkan

Mgr. Olga Roebuck, Ph.D.
vedoucí katedry

Prohlášení

Prohlašuji:

Tuto práci jsem vypracovala samostatně. Veškeré literární prameny a informace, které jsem v práci využila, jsou uvedeny v seznamu použité literatury.

Byla jsem seznámena s tím, že se na moji práci vztahují práva a povinnosti vyplývající ze zákona č. 121/2000 Sb., autorský zákon, zejména se skutečností, že Univerzita Pardubice má právo na uzavření licenční smlouvy o užití této práce mnou nebo bude poskytnuta licence o užití jinému subjektu, je Univerzita Pardubice oprávněna ode mne požadovat přiměřený příspěvek na úhradu nákladů, které na vytvoření díla vynaložila, a to podle okolností až do jejich skutečné výše.

Souhlasím s prezenčním zpřístupněním své práce v Univerzitní knihovně.

V Praze dne 26. 3. 2021

Tereza Tomanová

Abstract

This bachelor thesis aims to compare two contemporary novels that have used the Second World War as their theme. The thesis indicates main differences and similarities that can be found in the novels – *The Night Watch* and *The Young Lions* – also analyses several characters' stories that were found interesting by the thesis author.

Key Words

Second World War, World War II, Sarah Waters, *The Night Watch*, Irwin Shaw, *The Young Lions*, LGBTQ+

Abstrakt

Cílem této bakalářské práce je porovnat dvě literární verze druhé světové války v současném románu. Tato práce poukáže na hlavní odlišnosti a také podobnosti, které se objevují ve vybraných románech, kterými jsou *The Night Watch* (Noční hlídka) a *The Young Lions* (Mladí lvi). Dále se této práci objeví analýza příběhů některých postav, které se autorce práce jevila jako zajímavá.

Klíčová slova

Druhá světová válka, Sarah Waters, Noční hlídka, Irwin Shaw, Mladí lvi, LGBTQ+

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my supervisor, Mgr. Olga Roebuck, Ph. D., for all the consultations she has offered me, furthermore, for suggesting me the novel *The Night Watch* by Sarah Waters, which is one of the primary literary sources for this thesis. I would also like to thank my family for supporting me throughout my studies at University of Pardubice.

Table of contents

Introduction	1
1. THEORETICAL PART	2
1.1 Historical context	2
1.1.1 The Second World War	2
1.1.2 The Countries Included in the War.....	3
1.1.3 Great Britain.....	4
1.1.4 The United States	6
1.1.5 Hitler and Germany	8
1.1.6 The Role of Women during the World War II.	10
1.1.7 LGBTQ+ community and its history	11
1.2 Literary context	13
1.2.1 Literature of the second half of 20 th century	13
1.2.2 War novel.....	15
1.2.3 Irwin Shaw and The Young Lions.....	16
1.2.4 Literature in 21 st century	19
1.2.5 Lesbian and gay historical fiction.....	20
1.2.6 Sarah Waters and The Night Watch	21
2. PRACTICAL PART	23
2.1 The comparison and analysis	23
2.1.1 The theme of the Second World War	24
2.1.2 The female characters in the books	28
2.1.3 Kay, Helen, and Julia as part of LGBTQ+.....	34
2.2 Final thoughts	36
2.2.1 Duncan's story	37
2.2.2 The final scene in The Young Lions.....	40
Conclusion.....	43
Resumé.....	48
Bibliography.....	57

Introduction

The aim of this bachelor thesis is to compare the literary version of the Second World War in two contemporary novels. The first novel is *The Young Lions* written by *Irwin Shaw* only a few years after the Second World War. He uses his war experience to tell a story about three soldiers and how they had to manage the war. The second novel that will be compared and analysed in the thesis is *The Night Watch* written by *Sarah Waters*. *The Night Watch* is written more than 60 years after the Second World War that classifies the novel as a historical novel. The author of this novel uses the war theme differently than the previous author because *The Night Watch* is set only in one location which is London, therefore, there is no space for battle scenes, etc.

The thesis is divided into two main parts which are the theoretical part and the practical part. The theoretical part is divided into historical context and literary context to understand some situations and the backgrounds presented in both novels. In the historical context section, there are explained and summarised events and themes which are connected to the historical or cultural context such as the *Second World War*, the role of women during that era, or the LGBTQ+ community. Then the literary context introduces the century in which each author created their novel. Furthermore, there is mentioned the genre of each novel and their authors since there is a connection between their personal life and the book's story they have written. For example, if any of the authors experienced the Second World War and if they did. Moreover, the literary context states if *The Young Lions* are historical fiction or a war novel.

The practical part focuses on comparing the two novels and analysing some characters' stories which might be interesting to discuss. Firstly, the theme of the Second World War is compared to the way the author used the theme. Secondly, it is analysed and compared in what positions are women in each book – which author took a feminist approach and which one mentions women only as subordinate characters in their novel. Finally, an interesting event and one topic were chosen for analysing. A story of the only main male character from *The Night Watch* will be analysed, and then the final scene from *The Young Lions* will be discussed, where all three main characters meet and fight for their life. Both of these are analysed to answer some questions which a reader of these novels might have.

The last part of the thesis is the conclusion, where is stated everything the thesis presented. It also suggests what could be analysed in the future or what could have been analysed in this thesis but was not find as interesting as the topics analysed in the thesis.

1. THEORETICAL PART

1.1 Historical context

1.1.1 The Second World War

The Second World War was a conflict that lasted almost one whole decade and significantly changed the world and the way people perceived it. The world changed even more drastically than after the First World War because it was far more destructive. Many cities and towns were destroyed and demolished during the Second World War. Even today, buildings that survived still have visible marks left by machine guns or bombing on their surface. The Second World War plays a significant role in both books chosen for comparison in the thesis, and so it is essential to know what kind of conflict it was and how it changed the world.

The Second World War started in September 1939 when Hitler invaded Poland and ended in September 1945 with the capitulation of Japan. The war had a full-scale character which means that everyone takes part in the war, even the civilians. However, not every country wanted to join the conflict, e. g. Ireland or Switzerland. It is thought that the war began mainly because Adolf Hitler, who was the leader of Germany during the Second World War, wanted to dominate the world. Although Germany was not the only country that wanted something to gain from the war, none of the countries wanted to conquer the world like Germany. It was also Japan that joined the war on 27th September 1940 on the side of Germany and Italy. These three countries signed a Tripartite Pact against the Soviet Union. It is said that the war occurred because Germany, as well as Japan, wanted something which belonged to other nations – in the case of Germany it was more living room and for Japan, it was the wealth of China.¹ Nonetheless, it was not until 8th December 1941 when Japan actively joined the war by attacking American naval base Pearl Harbor which made the Americans join the war because until then the United States was a neutral country.

The first step for Germany was to invade Poland and then continue moving to western Europe to France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. The big target for Germany was Great Britain. The famous German Air force called Luftwaffe attacked Britain, mainly its industrial and other significant areas. The air raids and bombing lasted almost four months. During that time, large areas in England were destroyed. The most essential locations were London, Coventry, and the

¹ Harry C. Withers, "Summary of World War II," *Southwest Review* 31, no. 1 (FALL 1945): 101.

northwest of England where is located the most significant industrial area – Liverpool and Manchester. Although Luftwaffe was larger in number, the Royal Air Force was capable enough to win and protect Britain from Germany. The air raids were deadly and scared many British citizens, however, BBC indicates in their article about World War II. that by the late spring of 1940 hardly anyone was carrying their gas mask.² Perhaps that could be one of the additional facts which made Germany furious. Britain was not affected by their attack as dramatically as expected. It was the first big loss for them, also the turning point when the war began to change on the part of the Allies. After the loss in the Battle of Britain, Hitler focused on the eastern front – the Soviet Union – which proved to be successful at first but ended with another loss for Germany. Nonetheless, the war continued in other parts of Europe, and new battles began in the Pacific. The United States officially joined the war after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor but they fought on the side of the Allies in France even before that.

The United States played a big role in winning the Second World War. The war was near its end when the Americans dropped two nuclear bombs on Japan. As *The Advocate* reports the historic first atomic bomb was dropped at 9.15 a. m., Japanese time on Monday.³ An American plane dropped the bomb on Japan, destroying the city of Hiroshima and killing every human and animal, basically wiping the city from the map. It did not take long for the second nuclear bomb to drop and destroy another Japanese city Nagasaki. It is said that the defeat of Japan was inevitable. The war would end sooner or later even without using the nuclear bombs or without Russia taking a hand.⁴ The latest large world conflict ended when the Japanese Empire capitulated on 1st September 1945.

1.1.2 The Countries Included in the War

Such a conflict like the Second World War, also known as World War II. had a huge impact and many countries around the world participated either actively or passively. Some countries sent troops to the locations of fighting and some only provided other countries with supplies – food, weapons, vehicles, etc.

² “WW2: Eight Months of Blitz Terror,” BBC Teach, Accessed February 22, 2021, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/the-blitz-eight-months-of-terror/z7dyxyc>.

³ “Heart of Hiroshima Wiped Out as by Giant Bulldozer,” *The Advocate*, Burnie, August 9, 1945, 1, TROVE Retrieved September 17, 2013. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/68935692>.

⁴ Harry C. Withers, “Summary of World War II,” *Southwest Review* 31, no. 1 (FALL 1945): 107.

In the books, *The Young Lions* and *The Night Watch* appear three countries that played a huge role in the world conflict. It was Britain in *The Night Watch*, the United States, and Germany in *The Young Lions*. The storyline of *The Night Watch* is set in London during the worst part of the whole war for Britain – it was the infamous air raids and the bombing of London and the industrial areas of England. On the other hand, the United States was not thinking about participating in the war at all, but in the end, the country was forced to participate because of the situation in the Pacific. Germany was the initiator of the Second World War and it may be very interesting to know how the general population felt about being at war. Every country has viewed the war differently and even the current opinions of people who are interested in this matter have various thoughts about the war.

1.1.3 Great Britain

Almost every European country entered the war and it did not matter if it was decided willingly or forced by the situation which inevitably led to Germany winning the war. Great Britain wanted to avoid the war at all costs.

When the Nazis grew big enough to become the strongest political party in Germany, Britain did not know that this would become a huge problem later in the future. However, Germany was not the only one who wanted to show that they are one of the most powerful countries in Europe. Great Britain still has not found the real cause of the first world war. The English did not know how to prevent the next possible war because they could not determine the cause of the first war. Johnson says that they were not confused nor misinformed, they simply did not know because everyone had a different opinion.⁵ After Hitler became the head of Germany, also known as the Third Reich, the British Prime Minister at that time, Stanley Baldwin, wanted to arm the country. It should have been a slow preparation only in case of another war. There was nobody who knew what to do with Germany.

The politicians were separated into two groups by two main opinions on the situation. The two main opinions were different but they both led to an identical conclusion. Some said that the arming up of the whole Europe foreshadows another war and the other half claimed that no arming and building a new military will eventually cause another war. In the end, it all

⁵ Paul Johnson, *Dějiny Anglického národa*, trans. Jan Lampera, Věra Lamperová, 2nd ed. (Voznice: LEDA, 2012), 376.

depended on the final attitude towards Hitler. The right-wing of the British Parliament did not have anything against him because he focused on his country and did not bother anyone else. Nonetheless, the right-wing could not stand Hitler's plans to expand and take over European nations. On the other hand, the left-wing supported the plan of Germany having a stronger position in European politics but they did not see any issue with Hitler's regime. It did not take long and both wings found points that made them unite. The right-wing was against Hitler's politics against Jews and the left-wing could not take the fact that Germany with Italian help wanted to destroy democracy and socialism. Baldwin tried his best to manage the situation in peace but could not.

The new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom became Neville Chamberlain who played a big role before the Second World War started. He was one of the people who allowed Hitler through the Munich Agreement to take over Czechoslovakia's Sudetenlands thinking he made the right choice to protect Britain. That is what Neville Chamberlain thought. He tried to do everything he could to prevent his country from entering the war and not only that – he thought he would prevent Hitler from starting the war. Chamberlain's famous policy of Appeasement did not work. Morkesova mentions that although Baldwin was in favour of the Munich Agreement and agreed with Chamberlain's policy of appeasement, Foreign Minister Eden resigned as a protest against that decision.⁶ Chamberlain's idea of leaving Sudetenlands to Hitler was that he would get what he wanted and left Britain alone. Chamberlain even said in defence of his actions in a radio speech: "How horrible, fantastic, incredible it is that we should be digging trenches and trying on gas-masks here because of a quarrel in a far-away country between people of whom we know nothing." Later, when Slovakia had been proclaimed an independent state that was the moment in Chamberlain's life, he realised he made a terrible mistake.

Great Britain had to declare war on Germany after Hitler attacked Poland in 1939. It might be discussed whether British people thought the same thing as Chamberlain did and wanted to avoid war, but there were people who wanted to fight. There was a time when the politicians hesitated to interfere with what was happening on the continent, they were physically separated from the continent, after all, they did not have to do anything and maybe they would do better. No matter what the theories were back then, the fact that Britain would have to join the war is something that was an inevitable historical event.

⁶ Eliška Morkesová, *British and American History* (Ostrava: Impex, 1994), 72.

The British citizens and mainly Londoners had to experience air raids which made them hide in the underground which was used as anti-aircraft covers. Not only the underground was used for that matter but also cellars and public covers which were marked with an arrow pointing the way of the nearest anti-aircraft cover. The arrows were painted on the walls with a sign for the public covers and some of them still can be found in London. In *The Night Watch*, there are mentioned as anti-aircraft covers usually only the underground or cellars where the rescuers could find a whole family or people living on the same street after the air raid ended. One of the rescuers in the book was Mickey and Kay who were female volunteers during the war – their job was to be ambulance drivers. One of the situations where their job is mentioned in the book: Key turned and ran to the ambulance. ‘Don’t look,’ she said to the girl who was hovering about outside... She got out a box of dressings and hurried back to the house. She found Mickey in the room with the wounded man.⁷ This was a part when they were called after an air raid to places that had been hit. The British citizens had to adjust to the situation, and they had to participate in this war even more actively than in the first one.

1.1.4 The United States

The United States of America did not want to participate in another war. It was Europe’s problem and not America’s which was the argument as to why the United States could not interfere in European matters.

The President of the United States during that time was Franklin Roosevelt and he said that the country will stay out of this conflict and remain neutral. When Great Britain and France declared war on Germany the majority of the population of the United States did not want to be the next country to join the war. The American citizens said that they would not agree with the United States declaring war on Germany and sending their troops to Europe.⁸ Since American isolationism was still strong the United States tried to avoid active participation in the war.

It was not until the summer of 1940 when the public changed their opinion and thought it would be better to help Britain and the rest of Europe to beat Nazi Germany. Tindall et al. state that once the democratic European countries happened to face the war, the American

⁷ Sarah Waters, *The Night Watch* (Virago Press: Little, Brown Book Group, 2006), 205.

⁸ “How did Public Opinion About Entering World War II Change Between 1939 and 1941?,” Americans and the Holocaust, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Accessed February 16, 2021, <https://exhibitions.ushmm.org/americans-and-the-holocaust/us-public-opinion-world-war-ii-1939-1941>.

public attitudes were terrified of Hitler's power that they supported all the necessary measures to help the European democracies except actively entering the war.⁹ The fear of European democracies being overmastered by Nazi Germany made the Americans help the European countries as much as they could to prevent the United States from entering the war as an active participant. They hoped their help will be enough to deal with Hitler's aggressive attitude and defeat him. Nonetheless, the United States had to actively enter the war in the end.

The United States officially joined the war on 9th December 1941 but before that, they helped with arming up the Allies. It was on 10th March 1941 when the Lend-Lease Act left the Congress which authorized to provide Allies with any weapons, airplanes, and ships needed to fight Germany. Morkesová mentions that the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor without any previous declaration of war on the United States.¹⁰ After Japan attacked the American military base the American population did not question what to do anymore. More than half of the population agreed with President Roosevelt's decision to declare war on Nazi Germany and join the Allies.

However, there were groups of people who agreed with the war declaration on Germany but blamed certain minorities for being the real cause of the war. For instance, the troops in the U.S. Army. It is shown in one part of the book called *The Young Lions*. One of the main characters was of Jewish origin called Noah Ackerman who was a son of a Russian Jew who immigrated to the United States. When he joined the American Army as one of the troops he would constantly receive hate and "The constant ill-tempered jokes, the mock political discussions within Ackerman's hearing, in which men said loudly, "Hitler is probably wrong most of the time, but you've got to hand it to him, he knows what to do about the Jews ..."¹¹ Some of the Americans did not understand why they have to fight for someone else. One of the nationalities they had to fight for was the Jews. They hated them and it was not only because of the war, people hated Jews even before the war.

Jews living in the United States were not the only minority blamed or hated by the Americans for being responsible for the war. It is known that after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor the Japanese minority in the United States was criticised for what their homeland, their nation has done. The example can be seen when the other character from the book *The Young*

⁹ George B. Tindall, David E. Shi, *Dějiny Spojených států Amerických*, trans. Alena Faltýsková, Alena Komárková, Markéta Macháčková, Svatava Raková, Ivo Šmoldas, Ivan Vomáčka, Eva Zajíčková, (Lidové noviny, 1994), 595.

¹⁰ Eliška Morkesová, *British and American History* (Ostrava: Impex, 1996), 105.

¹¹ Irwin Shaw, *The Young Lions* (The University of Chicago Press, 2000), 293

Lions called Michael Whitacre who was pure American had the chance to have a gardener who was a Japanese immigrant. Michael felt sorry for the old Japanese gardener because he knew that many Americans despised Japan for attacking Pearl Harbor, however, to Michael's surprise the old man did not care about the war at all and even seemed to support what his homeland has done. That might be one of the examples when a Japanese immigrant, while already being an American citizen, supported Japan's actions.

Although the Americans did not like the idea of entering the war at first and tried to blame minorities living among them for it, without the United States the war would have lasted longer and Germany could have ruled Europe until now.

1.1.5 Hitler and Germany

One of many reasons why Germany started the Second World War was because Germans felt damaged by the Treaty of Versailles. Germany was a Prussian Empire before the first war caused it to end and a republic was created. Weimar Republic did not last for long because the political instability of the republic was unbearable and many politicians and public figures at that time were drawing attention to the fact that Germany needs to be strong and great as it was before the first war, e. g. Adolf Hitler.

Weimar republic had a strong far-right political party called the German National People's Party known as the DNVP. The party consisted of Anti-Semites, nationalists, and monarchists who aimed at the restoration of the German monarchy. It could be said that the DNVP was a predecessor of the Nazi Party, however, the Nazis had a slightly different and more radical vision of Germany's future.

The fragile political situation had to be fixed therefore Germany needed a strong figure to lead its nation and make Germany one of the most powerful countries again. As Hawes mentions, in Munich, an ex-corporal, Adolf Hitler who was chosen to go against left-wing ex-comrades found he had a gift for expressing the feelings of those who thought that the new order betrayed them.¹² It is known that Hitler was great at public speaking and persuading people to believe in what he says. In fact, he started a personality cult and made almost every German to respect him. Hitler's followers trusted him that much that they did not doubt the

¹² James Hawes, *The Shortest History of Germany* (Old Street Publishing Ltd. 2018), 155

meaning behind the Aryan race and his obsession with eliminating any race he found inferior. Professor Binchy mentions that Hitler often unintentionally confused the true meaning behind the Aryan race.¹³ He wanted power and mainly eliminate Jews whom he hated and blamed for the atrocious situation Germany was in. Therefore, he changed the meaning of the Aryan race several times which could have helped him to gain what he wanted.

The cult of heroic and powerful leader was something Germany needed and not many people thought there is anything bad about eliminating Jews from the cultural and economic sphere. Additionally, Hitler's promise to make Germany great again and unite all Germans and create one empire (Reich) made German citizens delighted. It is something which may make people shake their heads today but considering the fact that the country was in a terrible state it is partly understandable. The high numbers of unemployed people were rising, the nation was looking for something or someone who would make every German citizen walk with their head high and be proud of their country.

Hitler blamed everything on Jews or any other ethnicity he considered as subordinate to Germans and the even worse thing which could cause Germany's downfall was the results of the Peace of Versailles. Kershaw mentions that after tearing the Peace of Versailles apart, the recovery of Saarland, restoration of military sovereignty, recovery of Rhineland, the unification of Germany and Austria, and connecting the Sudetenland, Hitler gained support from all German social classes.¹⁴ That might be the main reason why Christian, who is one of the characters from *The Young Lions*, fought for the Third Reich and its Führer Adolf Hitler. Christian must have felt weak and betrayed the same way as Hitler and the rest of the German citizens after the Treaty of Versailles and the duty to pay war reparations. Perhaps, he saw the potential in uniting all German nations. At the beginning of the novel he has a conversation with an American woman. He tries to explain why he is a Nazi:

Then, finally, when things are in order, we can stop what you call the 'lying and murdering'. When people have enough to eat, when they have jobs, when they know that their money will be worth the same tomorrow as it is today and not one-tenth as much, when you know they have government that is their own, that cannot be ordered around by anyone else, at anyone else's whim...when they can stop

¹³ Daniel A. Binchy, "Adolf Hitler," *Studies: An Irish Quarterly Review* 22, no. 85 (March 1933): 38.

¹⁴ Ian Kershaw, "Hitler a Němci," in *Život ve Třetí říši*, trans. Vladimír Čort (Praha: Naše vojsko s. r. o. 2006), 82.

being defeated. Out of weakness, you get nothing. Shame, starvation.
That's all. Out of strength, you get everything.¹⁵

That supports the fact that this must have been the way many other Germans felt and Hitler was the strong government which would be their own – Germany's government. The German nation was desperate, they did not have stable jobs, lack of food and the country was under control of other governments because of the Peace of Versailles. Therefore, the only hope for the nation was Hitler and his strong words through which he persuaded people that he is the one who will help Germany to be a strong and independent country again.

1.1.6 The Role of Women during the World War II.

Women played a significant role during the Second World War since many men entered the army and had to leave their job which created empty job positions and affected employment in general. The country which can be presented as an example is Great Britain where women had to fill in the job positions which were done by men before the war. The same thing happened in the first war when men went to fight in the war and left free job positions resulting in having nobody to replace them in their positions. The only ones left in the country were women who did not know how to drive vehicles or work with machines in factories. Therefore, women had to learn, for example, how to drive a car to become ambulance drivers.

As mentioned before, many things have changed especially when it comes to gender segregation. Gazeley remarks that the Second World War reduced considerably the extent of gender segregation of employment in Britain and gender pay inequality declined sharply where women were employed in industries that had previously been dominated by men.¹⁶ This helped women with keeping some of the jobs in peacetime after the war. Women became more respected for their efforts to help and support their country.

Although many women volunteered for these jobs, the British Government released an Act to bring more women to do jobs men had left because of the war. Storey and Kay say that conscription for women was introduced for the very first time in Britain under the National Service (No. 2) Act 1941 which required a mandatory Registration for Employment for

¹⁵ Irwin Shaw, *The Young Lions* (The University of Chicago Press, 2000), 16.

¹⁶ Ian Gazeley, "Women's Pay in British Industry during the Second World War," *The Economic History Review* 61, no. 3 (August 2008): 651.

unmarried women between ages 18 and 45 from March 1941.¹⁷ However, many women attempted to avoid these kinds of jobs after the Act came into effect causing them to be arrested or forced to pay a fine. Those who proved that they live with children under 14 could stay at home to take care of them.

In *The Night Watch*, a character called Kay is a part of a group of women who volunteered as ambulance drivers during the Blitz. These groups of ambulance drivers called the *Night Watch* had to be prepared to leave their base to save lives and it did not matter if it was day or night. Despite the fact that several sources regarding women in the *Second World War*, for instance, *Woman in the Second World War* by Neil R. Storey and Fiona Key, mention some numbers showing how many women did not want to participate as volunteers in *Auxiliary Territorial Service* (ATS) and were punished because of it, there is no mention about women having to go to save lives during an air raid. Peggy Crowther explains that it was not a safe job to do because many people think that they, as ambulance drivers, would be hidden in the safety of a cellar and wait until the blitz was over, which is not true.¹⁸ In short, some women were scared, or brave as Peggy Crowther who would leave her outpost whenever needed. The same applies to Key from *The Night Watch* because of the way she was prepared to leave at any time to help, even if she knew she could have never returned to her base.

The rest of the women who were not included in the age range stated in the *Act of 1941* could stay at home or still be a part of the *ATS* as volunteers. However, staying in the safety of their own house alone when their husband enlisted and the children were sent to random families in the north of Britain, which was considered as a safe place, did not make the woman feel well and she would rather volunteer as part of *Auxiliary Territorial Service*.

1.1.7 LGBTQ+ community and its history

Romantic relationships between female characters take a lead in the book *The Night Watch* with two main characters – Kay and Helen – being lesbians. Also, there is a male character whose sexuality cannot be identified but many reviewers agree that the male character called Duncan

¹⁷ Neil R. Storey, Fiona Key, *Women in the Second World War* (Britain's Heritage, Amberley, 2019), 5-6.

¹⁸ "Britain's Front Line Women in WW2," World at War: WW2 History Online, published June 17, 2017, <https://www.world-at-war.co.uk/?p=358>.

can be thought of as gay. Nowadays, these three characters would be qualified as a part of the LGBTQ+ community.

LGBTQ+ is a community of people who are attracted to the same sex, both men and women, or people who changed their gender. The individual letters of the acronym stand for a group of people with specific sexuality. The letter “L” stands for lesbians, “G” for gays, “B” for bisexuals, “T” for transgender, “Q” for queer or questioning, and finally, the “+” symbol represents other terms for various sexual preferences or gender identities. Nevertheless, some of the sexualities or gender identities are still not accepted as part of LGBTQ+. Beňová et al. mention that until today it is arguable whether the bisexual orientation exists or it is something that should not be considered as part of LGBTQ+. She adds that transgender people are sometimes still not accepted as part of the community, however, it is mainly thought of by people outside of LGBTQ+.¹⁹ People who are part of the community and openly claim to be LGBTQ+ – they “come out”, meaning they reveal their sexuality or gender to the public – very often meet with criticism or homophobic comments.

Since the reaction to homosexuals, bisexuals, and transgender is often negative even these days, it is obvious that living a normal life as a part of the community was not much easier during the *Second World War*. Moreover, there was no such community during the war which would make it easier for people of different sexuality like it is today. The characters from *The Night Watch* have to hide their same-sex relationships in order to avoid criticism or getting arrested. In the novel, there is a one scene as an example:

She and Julia always spoke quietly when they were taking their bath. They shared the bathroom with the family who lived in the basement of their house; they all had regular bath-times, so there was not much danger of being caught out; but the tiles on the walls seemed to magnify sound, and Julia had the idea that their voices, the splashing, the rub of their limbs in the tub, might be heard in the rooms downstairs.²⁰

They both are in a dangerous situation because if they were caught in the bath together, they would probably be arrested or they would have to pay a fine.

¹⁹ Kateřina Beňová et al. *Analýza situace lesbické, gay, bisexuální a transgender menšiny v ČR* (Praha, 2007), 9.

²⁰ Sarah Waters, *The Night Watch* (Virago Press: Little, Brown Book Group, 2006), 46-47.

It was not until 1957 when the Wolfenden Report was published. The report recommended decriminalisation of homosexuality in the United Kingdom. There were different views on homosexuality during the war. For instance, Germany captured homosexuals, marked them with pink triangles, and sent them to concentration camps. Although homosexuals were not the main target of Nazi Germany like Jews or other ethnic minorities, many of them died in the death camps. Nevertheless, it had its positive impact on the community. Lamé mentions in her book that later the pink triangle changed its meaning when LGBTQ+ activists used it as a symbol of defiance, liberation, and dignity.²¹ On the other hand, there were European countries such as Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland, or Sweden which decriminalised homosexuality between 1934 and 1944.

In conclusion, it was not easy to be a homosexual during the war because there were more people whose reaction to someone who has feelings for a person of the same sex was negative and the homosexuals could be killed or imprisoned. Even though it mostly depended on the country if it accepted same-sex relationships or not. That does not change the fact that even these days some countries have laws to allow them to imprison and kill people who are attracted to the same sex. Members of the LGBTQ+ community are in reality still not accepted by the majority of the society, although, with each year it gets better.

1.2 Literary context

1.2.1 Literature of the second half of 20th century

The world was destroyed after the two world wars and people were tired of these two significant periods after which the majority of them lost their loved ones on the battlefield or they lost their homes. People had to rebuild the cities which were practically wiped off the maps and some of those who were influenced by the *Second World War* wanted to share their experience with the future generations or with those who have not been present on the battlefield during the war.

When it comes to literature after the Second World War, the main themes were the war itself or the experience some of the authors gained from it. That is something which could be seen with the authors after the first war, for example, a novel *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway, whose work depicts an American soldier serving in the Italian Army during the

²¹ Amy Lamé, *From Prejudice to Pride: A History of the LGBTQ+ Movement* (London: Wayland, 2019), 38.

First World War. The authors reported what they saw or experienced on the battlefield and what they had to face – also tried to capture their choices made when fighting the enemy which could be portrayed through the characters in some of the novels or short stories.

Furthermore, the theme of the war has also brought the topic of the Holocaust and concentration camps. The Jewish authors wanted to share their experiences and convey their feelings through their works. As Canton states, Jewish writers, and especially Holocaust survivors such as poet Paul Celan, attempted to come to terms with the horrors of the death camps.²² The stories of Jews who survived the war are probably one of the most impactful since nobody except for them could imagine what they must have gone through. At the same time, some German authors try to portray Germany during the era of the Nazis, and the authors themselves feeling ashamed for that part of their country's history. They try to warn the world to not forget about the horror Nazism brought on Europe and the rest of the world.

It is only natural to use literature as a way to communicate someone's opinion on a significant topic or just write about their feelings wanting to share them with society. The war was one of those significant eras which influenced many authors to write about it but not only them, also the readers. Soukal remarks that the aftermath of the war truly had an impact on millions of readers, various social classes, and even ethnic groups because the whole society was now exposed to several political directions and ideologies.²³ That supports the fact, that the ideologies and different political views divided the world into two parts after World War II. This division caused the Cold War between the capitalist block represented by the United States and the communist block which was the whole of Eastern Europe represented by the Soviet Union. The location where the author lived and whose ideology, they supported also indicates what topics and themes he wanted to communicate through their works.

The additional theme which affected the literary works of some authors was the crisis in society. Thus, new styles of writing and literary tendencies appeared, for example, Existentialism or Beat Generation. Prokop notes that these tendencies rose because the interpersonal relationships after the war changed and made many people realise how easy it is to lose the ability to communicate with others which brings the feeling of anxiety and

²² James Canton, *The Literature Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained* (London: DK Penguin Random House, 2016), 248.

²³ Josef Soukal et al., *Literatura pro 4. ročník středních odborných škol* (SPN, Praha 2005), 36.

alienation.²⁴ The feeling of loneliness and alienation tried to portray Existentialism through the description of the growing distance between ordinary people and those living in luxury.

However, one of the biggest influences of the 20th century still is both the war periods which inspire even contemporary authors to bring the topic of the first or the second war back and set their characters in the dark and hopeless time period.

1.2.2 War novel

A war novel is a type of novel that focuses on the theme of war and it does not matter which war, moreover, the novel describes the process of a certain war in detail or at least its key points and the author usually took a part in that war.

The second half of the 20th century was a great opportunity to share experience gained either in the First World War or the *Second World War*. Many authors had the chance or were unlucky enough to take a part in at least one of the two world wars as soldiers or as journalists allowing them to see the site of a battlefield with their own eyes. Soukal states that numerous authors felt the need or perceived their experience as the duty to provide information or their testimony of what situations they could encounter at the battlefield.²⁵ Some authors were so detailed and described the war so vividly when writing that some works may come across as a documentary or a journal.

Nonetheless, the theme of war is not a new phenomenon appearing in the 20th century because the theme has been already used in the Greeks and Roman cultures. The classical era slowly began to popularise the theme of war in literature and the other arts. Therefore, it is proven that the genre of war novels has been here since the classical era and maybe even before then. However, some eras were so rich in wars or the wars were that big which made those eras even more inspirational for authors of war novels. In history, there were some significant wars that are known even now and were used as a theme for authors' works. Some centuries were filled with wars, for instance, the 17th century, etc. To state some examples of wars that served as an inspiration for a literary work other than the First World War and *Second World War* are the Hundred Years War, American Civil War, or the Cold War, although the last war mentioned

²⁴ Vladimír Prokop, *Přehled světové literatury 20. století pro výuku literatury na středních školách* (O.K. – Soft, 2016), 34.

²⁵ Josef Soukal et al., *Literatura pro 4. ročník středních odborných škol* (SPN, Praha 2005), 38.

was not a literal war but more competition among two blocks – the Western side of the world and the Eastern bloc.

However, it was not until the 20th century when this genre made a huge comeback because of the impact both world wars had. The authors who want to share their experience or describe the process of certain wars and their feelings can introduce the topic to the readers in diverse ways. Calloway indicates that the literature of war takes a variety of approaches and could be experienced through a number of genres such as poetry, drama, short stories, journals, diaries, or novels.²⁶ The genre which can be considered one of the most used and popular among readers is the novel. Many novels with war themes were written during the years of the 20th century, for instance, *All Quiet Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque, *For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway, or the novel discussed in this thesis called *The Young Lions* by Irwin Shaw.

1.2.3 Irwin Shaw and The Young Lions

Irwin Shaw's life is indeed significant for the novel *The Young Lions* because some scenes from the Second World War and facts about some of the novel's characters match with *Shaw's* personal experience and facts about him.

Shaw was born in New York City to Jews parents who immigrated to America from Russia. *Irwin Shaw* was born with the name Irwin Gilbert Shamforoff and the surname *Shaw* was given to him after his parents decided they do not want to use their Russian surname anymore, perhaps because they did not want to be reminded of their past life in Russia.

One important thing which connects with one of the novel's characters called Michael Whitacre is that *Shaw* used to work at a theatre and wrote plays for that theatre. Although Michael is not a playwright but a stage manager living in New York does not deny the fact that *Shaw* got inspired by his own life and his connection to theatre. Salter highlights in the foreword of the book that the character of Michael Whitacre is in many ways *Shaw's* representative in

²⁶ Catherine Calloway, "War in Literature and Drama," Oxford Bibliographies: Your Best Research Starts Here, Last Modified January 11, 2018, <https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199791279/obo-9780199791279-0004.xml>.

the novel.²⁷ He and many other literary critics agree that there are several factors that lead to *Shaw's* personal life or that are represented in his novel by Michael's character.

Nonetheless, there are more facts *Shaw* borrowed from his life and applied on the novel's characters. For instance, Noah, another of the main characters, is a Jew living in America whose parents are Russian immigrants. That is a fact that matches with personal information about *Shaw* which is that he is a Jew and his parents immigrated from Russia. In the novel, Noah is being bullied by fellow soldiers because he is a Jew. He decided that he would fight with everyone who bullied him. However, he got beaten up by every man he challenged to fight him:

Five weeks later, Noah was back in the infirmary again. Two more teeth had been knocked out in his mouth, and his nose had been smashed. The dentist was making him a bridge so that he could eat, and the surgeon kept taking crushed pieces of bone out of his nose on every visit.²⁸

Noah wanted to fight for himself because he did not want to seem weak and powerless. He could not bear the fellow soldiers stealing or hiding his possessions only because he was a Jew, and so he decided to teach them a lesson. That is something *Irwin Shaw* could experience as well, therefore, he used that experience and applied it on Noah's character.

The last of the three main characters called Christian is a German soldier who, unlike the other two characters, does not seem to represent *Shaw* in anything. The only thing in Christian's storyline connected to *Shaw* is the locations he appears to be fighting at also the descriptions of battles. That brings the fact that *Irwin Shaw* entered the American Army in 1942 as a part of a documentary film unit. He was able to experience the horrors of the Second World War. He used most of his memories in the novel and some short stories from when he was on battlefields in Europe. Liukkonen emphasises that *Shaw* served also in North Africa and witnessed the liberation of Paris.²⁹ The things he witnessed inspired him to write short stories and novels just like *The Young Lions* with a detailed description of battle scenes and living as a soldier in barracks. The description of how it works in the army is very well described in one

²⁷ James Salter, "Foreword," in *The Young Lions*, written by Irwin Shaw, (The University of Chicago Press, June 2000), viii.

²⁸ Irwin Shaw, *The Young Lions* (The University of Chicago Press, 2000), 314.

²⁹ Petri Liukkonen, Ari Pesonen, "Irwin Shaw (1913-1984)," Internet Archive: Wayback Machine, published 2008, <https://web.archive.org/web/20100125094359/http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/ishaw.htm>.

of the scenes in *The Young Lions*. One of the characters, Michael, goes to see his superior to report what happened to Noah Ackerman. Captain Colclough makes it clear that what happened to Noah is usual for someone like him when they are in the army:

“In an army, Whitacre,” he said in the even, sober tone which he must have heard from officiating ministers at so many funerals in Joplin, “a certain amount of friction between the men is unavoidable. I believe that the healthiest way of settling that friction is by fair and open fighting. These men, Whitacre, are going to be exposed to much worse than fists later on, much worse...”³⁰

That gives an example what could possibly *Shaw* as a soldier encounter when he was in the army. It also means, after mentioning some facts, that all three characters have something which characterises *Shaw* himself. He applied some of his characteristics and facts about himself on each of the characters but in a different way to fit the story.

In fact, some literary critics and even some book reviewers compare Ernest Hemingway with *Irwin Shaw* and his experience he gained from the war, and the way he could portray it in his novel *The Young Lions*. Salter mentions that the battle scenes were compared to Hemingway’s description of the Italian retreat from Caporetto in *A Farewell to Arms* and the pull of the narrative, its great readability, was undeniable.³¹ *The Young Lions* is a novel that is indeed enjoyable and easy to read. The reason why it is praised by many critics and readers is mainly because of *Shaw’s* detailed description of the war and what he witnessed when he was in the Army.

The Young Lions is a novel that shows three points of view on the world during the *Second World War* as it has been already mentioned. There are two Americans and one German who enter their Armies to join the war and fight for their country and believes. As mentioned before, *Shaw* uses his experience from the battlefield and applies it to these three characters who struggle to survive. Besides those scenes, the book sometimes shows moments which are calm and depicts soldier’s life far away from battles enjoying the short peaceful time they get. *Shaw* gave some of his personality traits to the characters and shows us their development

³⁰ Irwin Shaw, *The Young Lions* (The University of Chicago Press, 2000), 313.

³¹ James Salter, “Foreword,” in *The Young Lions*, written by Irwin Shaw, (The University of Chicago Press, June 2000), ix.

through the book. Another thing that could be applied to *Shaw* is that he had an affair when he was in Europe as one of the characters in the novel.

1.2.4 Literature in 21st century

21st century literature is open to any style of writing and any genre. Authors are free to write about whatever they want and not about topics which influence the whole world like, for instance, in the previous centuries when there were dark times or world wars. Many writers' works are focused on the present settings and everyday life. Even modern technologies like computers and smartphones inspire authors to write about various things – science fiction or fantasy seem to be quite popular genres among readers nowadays.

At the end of the 20th century, many of the totalitarian regimes fell and were replaced by democratic systems and these changes brought new threats like terrorism which happened to be an issue to inspire authors to write about. For example, Canton indicates that the modern readership is international and the authors are not restricted by any regional boundaries, therefore, they are quick to reflect on matters and ideas that have global influence, such as the dysfunctions in modern society and the threat of terrorism.³² The fact that these topics and issues were not accepted or did not exist in previous centuries makes it more attractive and wanted to write and read about them now. One of the topics Canton has not mentioned is, for example, sexuality and gender which were unaccepted in the past and it is disapproved by some people until today, nonetheless, homosexuality and questioning of sexuality have existed for centuries.

Nowadays, there are many authors who focus on sexuality and attraction toward the same sex, for instance, a very popular book “Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda” written by Becky Albertalli who identifies herself as bisexual. The book describes a life of a young boy who is scared to share with others that he is gay. The story is set in the 2010s which is quite usual for such a topic to be discussed because it is a current issue that many people still do not accept same-sex relationships and claim that it is something unnatural and some even call it a sickness. However, there are authors who take this particular topic concerning homosexuality and set it in various eras of the last century. *Sarah Waters* is one of the authors who is famous

³² James Canton, *The Literature Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained* (London DK Penguin Random House, 2016), 295.

for writing novels about homosexual relationships and setting them in the Victorian era or World War II.

1.2.5 Lesbian and gay historical fiction

First, the concept of historical fiction should be explained. Historical fiction is a genre that was known and used in almost every century but its success has grown and reached its peak in the 19th century. The genre was embraced and popularised as a Romantic response to the Age of Reason and its intellectual point of view.

Historical fiction is a genre that depicts a story of a significant person or ordinary person in the past. Dukes defines it as one of the sub-genres of literature that takes many forms and its most essential feature is that it is set in the past with every element of the story conforming to the norms of today.³³ That can be considered as a general characteristic or definition of historical fiction.

Nevertheless, it may be complicated to understand what is classified as a historical novel when it comes to the time setting. Adamson points out that she defined historical fiction many times before but what now she thinks should be considered as historical fiction is a work about a time period at least 25 years before it was written.³⁴ However, there are some people who go even further and do not consider a work written less than 30 years ago as historical fiction. For example, Johnson mentions that a historical novel which is set during the Second World War might be found as historical fiction for people who were born in the 1970s but for people who clearly remember what happened in the 1940s may disagree. She adds that to make the definition of historical fiction acceptable for the vast majority of people it is necessary the work should be set 50 years and more in the past.³⁵ Therefore, it is better to follow Johnson's definition because it might be applied to more readers.

Lesbian and gay historical fiction can be interpreted as historical fiction depicting a romantic relationship between two people of the same sex in the past. Nonetheless, there are

³³ Jessica Dukes, "What is Historical Fiction?" *Celadon Books*, Accessed February 23, 2021, <https://celadonbooks.com/what-is-historical-fiction/>.

³⁴ Lynda G. Adamson, *World Historical Fiction: An Annotated Guide to Novels for Adults and Young Adults*, Oryx Press, 1999, Preface, <https://archive.org/details/worldhistoricalf00adam/page/n13/mode/2up>.

³⁵ Sarah Johnson, "Defining the Genre: What are the rules for historical fiction?" *Historical novel society*, accessed February 19, 2021, <https://historicalnovelsociety.org/guides/defining-the-genre-what-are-the-rules-for-historical-fiction/>.

not many people who were interested in defining something as lesbian and gay historical fiction even though there have been some works that are set in the past and narrate a story about a character who is homosexual. *Sarah Waters*, in her thesis on Lesbian and Gay Historical Fiction, mentions two significant men who studied the genre of historical fiction. Both Georg Lukács and Avrom Fleishman agreed that the only suitable and acceptable character in a historical novel should be a man and not a woman or a homosexual.³⁶ Both Lukács and Fleishman show that not many theorists of the genre accepted a character who should be different from the standards. Even today are main characters who are homosexual found as too different and irrelevant for a casual reader. Thus, it is complicated to find diverse characteristics of the genre. The person who dedicated their life to defining and trying to explain lesbian and gay historical fiction is *Sarah Waters* whose work is one of the two books which are discussed in this thesis.

1.2.6 Sarah Waters and The Night Watch

Sarah Waters is a very significant author who is known for writing historical fiction. In fact, it is a specific genre of historical novel which is lesbian and gay historical fiction. It can be said that she combines historical fiction with lesbian and gay fiction to create historical lesbian and gay fiction. Although there are more authors who focus on this genre, she is the most renowned for it.

The reason she chose to focus on writing lesbian and gay historical fiction is that she is a lesbian and she is proud of being one, additionally, she loves to set her characters in a particular time period. Since the time settings she chooses are before she was born, she writes historical fiction. Her favourite time period is the Victorian era; therefore, it is obvious that the majority of her books are set in that era. Nevertheless, her latest books, including *The Night Watch*, are set in the 20th century, either after World War I. or during *World War II*.

Waters characteristic themes which appear in her books are sexuality and genre, nonetheless, there are more themes which many readers might have overlooked. For instance, one of the themes is the question of feminism and women's role in society, which can be recognised in *The Night Watch* where the majority of the main characters are women.

³⁶ Sarah Waters, "Wolfkins and Togas: Lesbians and Gay Historical Fictions, 1870 to the present," (Ph.D. thesis, Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London, 1995), 10-11.

As indicated before *Sarah Waters'* favourite time period is the Victorian era, nevertheless she wrote multiple books which are set in different eras. The first book she has written set in a different period than the Victorian era was *The Night Watch*. In one of her interviews, she mentions that even though she loved her Victorian settings she decided it was time for a change.³⁷ However, it was not easy for her to write about a story set in a different time period with which she was not familiar. *Waters* had to face series of challenges before she could start writing *The Night Watch*. She had to do complex research on the time period of the *Second World War* and London during the Blitz.

Waters succeeded and was able to vividly capture the society and the characters living in London during the Blitz. Hensher remarks that *Waters* is telling the characters' histories, their tight connections, or involves wartime imprisonment, backstreet abortions, firefighting during the Blitz, and a good deal of illicit sex.³⁸ The description of the characters' feelings and emotions is the key point in her book, nevertheless, her depiction of London during the Blitz and its atmosphere is also important. There is a reviewer who agrees and indirectly supports Hensher's opinion. Leavitt notes that *Waters* is conveying the atmosphere of wartime London, from its panicked nights to its deceptively normal days.³⁹ In *The Night Watch* can really be seen the contrast of the daytime and night-time.

The days in London during the war are bright and peaceful making it seem like there is no war and the characters live their life as they would if there was no war. The only thing which may suggest there is a war is that the female characters either work for the Government at the Ministry of War or in jobs done by men before the war such as ambulance drivers. On the other hand, there is the night when the air raids take place and the stress and fear can be felt from the *Waters'* description of the atmosphere. The dark atmosphere is described when Kay and her colleague Mickey are called to rescue some people after an air raid:

Kay went on more cautiously. As soon as she turned into Hugh Street there began to come, as she knew there would, specks and smuts upon the windscreen of the van: dust, from pulverised brick and

³⁷ Michelle McGrane, "Sarah Waters on writing: 'If I waited for inspiration to strike, it would never happen!'," *Internet Archive: Wayback Machine*, Last Modified October 4, 2006, https://web.archive.org/web/20070927222531/http://www.litnet.co.za/cgi-bin/giga.cgi?cmd=cause_dir_news_item&news_id=3630&cause_id=1270.

³⁸ Phillip Hensher, "Smoother than Velvet," *The Guardian*, January 8, 2006, <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2006/jan/08/fiction.sarahwaters>.

³⁹ David Leavitt, "This is London," *The New York Times*, March 26, 2006, <https://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/26/books/review/this-is-london.html>.

stone, plaster and wood. The light from her headlamps – which was poor enough, because the lamps were dimmed – seemed to thicken, to cloud and swirl, like stout settling down in a glass.⁴⁰

Another complication *Sarah Waters* had to face was the retrospective structure of the book. *The Night Watch* was also her first book written in a retrospective style which means that the story is told backward. However, there are some people who may enjoy reading stories told backward it often happens that the story lacks some backstory. Nish from Nishita's Rants and Raves shares her experience after reading *The Night Watch*. She says that the feeling of just being dropped into the characters' lives without knowing anything about them was very nice because it made her want to know more about what happens to these characters, nonetheless, a little epilogue might have improved her experience as a reader.⁴¹ Although for some readers the ending stays open and they want to know more, there are more readers who appreciate her work which is supported by the fact that she has won few prizes for her book *The Night Watch*.

2. PRACTICAL PART

2.1 The comparison and analysis

The Young Lions and *The Night Watch*, besides having a different plot, share other differences and similarities, for example, there is a similarity in the characters' development, and that both stories are set during the *Second World War*. The books also have been written in diverse eras, published almost 60 years apart. Although both works are contemporary novels and both present the story during the same time period, *The Night Watch* is historical fiction because its author wrote the story more than 30 years after the events of the *Second World War* happened which is considered a standard amount of time after which a novel can be referred to as historical fiction.

On the contrary, *The Young Lions* is a novel with a detailed description of soldiers' life and battles of the *Second World War*, etc. making the novel present itself as a war novel even though that possibility is not mentioned by many literary reviewers. *Shaw's* detailed description

⁴⁰ Sarah Waters, *The Night Watch* (Virago Press: Little, Brown Book Group, 2006), 193-194.

⁴¹ Nishita, "The Night Watch," *Nishita's Rants and Raves: About Books, Movies, Food, Shopping, and Travel*, Accessed February 25, 2021, <https://nishitak.com/2017/09/30/night-watch/>.

of battle scenes was compared to *Hemingway's* description in his work *A Farewell to Arms*. *Irwin Shaw* focuses on a detailed description of the battles while *Sarah Waters* focuses more on the characters' development and the war affects the characters less than the characters in *The Young Lions*.

Furthermore, one of the books was written by a male and the other by a female author which explains each authors' preference for the sex of the main characters. Nevertheless, there are more things to compare also see what diversities can be found between *The Young Lions* and *The Night Watch*. Taking look at each book to find the differences and similarities between books' plot, characters, themes, and more.

Starting with *The Night Watch* and its plot, in the book are four main characters – Kay, Viv, Helen, and Duncan. The short part of each character's life is captured before and during the Second World War in London. Their stories end at the beginning of the book because of the retrospective narration which was the author's first time using this style of narration. It was not easy for *Sarah Waters* to plan a story of each character because she basically wrote about their life backward. Therefore, reading through the book to reach its end, the reader actually reaches its beginning to finally understand how or why the characters ended up the way they are seen at the beginning of the book.

On the other hand, there is *Irwin Shaw's* book, *The Young Lions*, where the narration is chronological and the reader is not thrown in the story like with *The Night Watch*. The story of three main characters – two Americans and one German – Michael, Noah, and Christian. The fact that the characters the reader can see the characters develop chronologically may make it easier to read, nevertheless, the retrospective narration of *Waters' The Night Watch* makes the reader want to know the reason why the characters are the way they are.

To get a better and more detailed comparison of the books, it is necessary to use the information listed in the theoretical part of the thesis and divide the comparison into sections accordingly.

2.1.1 The theme of the Second World War

The *Second World War* is a significant theme in both *The Young Lions* and *The Night Watch*. The plot revolves around the war and it influences the characters either directly or indirectly, it depends where in the book the reader finds themselves. *The Night Watch* uses the theme of the

Second World War rather as a background for the characters' stories than the main theme where the characters are involved directly. That might be caused by the setting of the plot which is only London and its surrounding areas whereas *The Young Lions* is set in different areas around Europe and in the United States which makes the story more diverse. Nevertheless, *The Night Watch* uses London during the Second World War to set a dark mood and feeling of constant fear because the air raid could occur any moment even though it happens mainly at night.

The theme of war is used in various ways in *The Night Watch*, for example, when mentioning some characters' occupations. During the war era, there were some jobs that cannot be found today, for instance being a secretary at the Ministry of War or working for the Ministry of Food. Some of these institutions would not make sense nowadays but during the war, it was something essential. The Ministry of Food is mentioned when Viv is going to meet with her lover Reggie, in one of London's hotels. She has two envelopes marked as confidential where she found a pair of evening shoes and in the other was a dress which shows that during the war the Ministry of Food did not supply citizens only with food but also with clothing.

Another thing suggesting there is a war is when there are several times mentioned public air raid shelters which would usually be the Underground or cellars opened for the public to hide in. In the book, there is a scene where Kay and her friend and co-worker Mickey are on their way to rescue people who might have survived the bombing. They arrive at the scene of the bombing and find people who are looking for their family members who were hiding in a cellar which is used as an air-raid shelter but the entrance to that cellar is buried under the rubble of what was left of the building. If Kay and Mickey did not save the people hidden in the cellar in time they might have suffocated. Therefore, the fact that people could hide in shelters like cellars or the Underground did not ensure survival but it could make them feel less in danger.

In addition, there is a moment in the book where the reader can experience the dark and dangerous atmosphere of the Second World War and London during the Blitz. It is when Helen wants to go to see Julia when Kay has gone to work. Helen and Julia talk about casual things. Julia then asks Helen: Don't you hate these evenings? Not knowing if the Warning will sound, and so on? It's like waiting for an execution that might or might not take place.⁴²

Julia points out the fact that it is not certain when the Warning will sound and the air raid can happen any minute. That brings back the thought about the uncertainty the whole Blitz

⁴² Sarah Waters, *The Night Watch* (Virago Press: Little, Brown Book Group, 2006), 353.

era in London held and that it was dark times filled with fear. Especially highlighting the fact that Julia talks about the evening when the sun is setting or it is already dark.

Helen and Julia's conversation continues when Helen invites Julia for a walk. It is evening and there is a danger of an air raid taking place any minute. When they are walking in the streets of London they are talking about the war and bombing of London. Julia mentions that many of the Londoners were happy that St. Paul's Cathedral has not been touched after the last bombing and that she is not that excited about it. Helen is a bit surprised because who would want to see one of the British most significant buildings being destroyed. Julia replies to Helen with a very strong point – that it would be better to see St. Paul's destroyed than a house where live people with their children. Then they mention Churchill and even Hitler. However, that is only something they talk about and the war is happening somewhere else even though they are in danger of an air raid taking place. It is only another hint of the *Second World War* and it shows that the war is mostly used as a background to give the reader a better experience and some interesting atmosphere for the story of the characters where the story is focused on characters emotional development.

On the contrary, *Irwin Shaw* uses the theme of the *Second World War* in *The Young Lions* as the main part of the plot. It is something the characters are directly part of and where they are not only talking about the war and watching it as spectators. They are fighting at battlefields and have higher chances of dying than the characters from *The Night Watch*. That is because all three characters are soldiers when two of them are American soldiers and one is a German soldier fighting for Nazi Germany.

The novel takes the reader to battlefields of several countries like France, Italy, and even North Africa. *Shaw* did not forget to include some of the most essential moments of the war either when writing the novel. One of them is the invasion of Paris which happened in June 1940. That is the first battle scene appearing in the novel as part of Christian's story. Christian is a soldier of the German's Army and his first battle depicted in the novel is in France in 1940 where he is as a part of the German's Army on their way to invade Paris and take over France as it is mentioned in the novel: They were to keep moving toward Paris, which they had been assured would not be defended.⁴³ This part of the story is well described, however, *Shaw* could not experience the invasion of Paris since he entered the army in 1942 and he was, as an American citizen, a part of the American Army. He probably must have done some research on

⁴³ Irwin Shaw, *The Young Lions* (The University of Chicago Press, 2000), 57.

that or he simply imagined it the other way round. *Shaw* was a part of a group of soldiers who liberated Paris from Germans, therefore it is possible it could have inspired him and borrow his own experience and narrate it as the invasion of Paris rather than its liberation.

Another significant moment of the *Second World War* is not a battle but an attack on American's military base. The mention of the attack on Pearl Harbor appears in the novel as a part of Michael's story. Michael is in Palm Springs, California when the terrible news is announced on the radio on Sunday morning:

When the woman had come out of the clubhouse, saying, "You'd better come in and listen to the radio. There's an awful lot of static, but I think I heard that the Japanese have attacked us," the two soldiers had looked at each other and had put their racquets away...⁴⁴

Everyone is terrified by the sudden news because nobody expected that Japan would attack the United States of America. Michael's character is shocked and knows that this means the United States enters the war, also it awakes a patriotic spirit in him as he thinks of entering the American Army to fight for his country.

The most important part of the novel where is depicted the horrifying part of the war which was hidden from the world till Nazi Germany was defeated – the concentration camps. The concentration camp appears at the end of the novel where all three characters meet. The first one of the characters who enter the site of the concentration camp is Christian who is on his way to escape to his home, in other words, he wants to save himself by deserting the German Army. Christian even dresses as one of the prisoners so he would not be killed by the rioting prisoners and later by the Allies.

Methodically, without saying anything, the prisoner took off his loose striped-cotton jacket and began on his trousers. The noise was getting worse outside, and there was quite a bit of shooting now. "Hurry!" Christian ordered.⁴⁵

Then he takes his chance and tries to run away, he even killed a German soldier on his way to prove that he is a prisoner. By the time Christian is gone, Michael and Noah arrive at the death camp:

⁴⁴ Irwin Shaw, *The Young Lions* (The University of Chicago Press, 2000), 172.

⁴⁵ Irwin Shaw, *The Young Lions* (The University of Chicago Press, 2000), 642.

Michael and Noah were right behind Green when he went through the doorway of the first barracks. The door had been torn off and most of the windows had been broken open, but even so, the smell was beyond the tolerance of human nostrils.⁴⁶

Shaw describes the site of the concentration camp with so much detail that it makes the reader question if the author has seen the concentration camp himself. It can be discussed because there is no information indicating that *Irwin Shaw* was a part of a group that would liberate any concentration camp. Nonetheless, it is highly possible that he could enter one of those camps when he and his group was on the way to liberate Paris.

In conclusion, it is clear that the importance of experiencing the horrors of the *Second World War* is essential when it comes to the detailed description of places and battles in the novel. *Shaw's* detailed description of battle scenes and the life of a soldier were praised by many literary critics and reviewers. The author had the chance to fight in the *Second World War* and experience its horrors, therefore it is clear why the novel contains such a precise description. Whereas *Sarah Waters*, the author of *The Night Watch*, did not have the opportunity to be a soldier during the *Second World War* or experience the nightmare of being a citizen of London during the Blitz. *Waters* had to research so she could have accurate information when describing the dark times of London and Britain in general. Additionally, she had to try to write the novel in a language used back then to make the reader's experience even more enjoyable and realistic. *Waters* was successful with her research therefore her work was commended by many critics.

Thus, it can be said that experiencing the war is important, however, it is not necessary for writing a novel set in a certain time period. If the research is done well and the author's main point is not describing or mentioning every event in detail but only using the war as a background then the novel can be as successful as a novel written by someone who actively participated in the war.

2.1.2 The female characters in the books

When it comes to the role of women in the two novels, they either appear only as supporting characters like in *The Young Lions* or as the main characters in *The Night Watch*. The reasoning

⁴⁶ Irwin Shaw, *The Young Lions* (The University of Chicago Press, 2000), 648.

for that may be simple since it is known that the author of the novel, which was mentioned first, is a male and the author of the second novel is a female. People usually assume that female authors write about other females or choose their characters to be women and the other way round. Sometimes it is not true, however, in this case, it is because the male author lived in a different era where men were still superior to women. Also, *Shaw* did not need many female characters for his story because it would not make much sense since he focuses on the theme of the Second World War from its battlefields where there were not seen many women besides some field hospitals where they could work as nurses. Therefore, it is understandable *Shaw* mentions women in his novel only as supporting characters who keep company to soldiers when they stop by some city to rest between battles.

On the other hand, there is the female author *Sarah Waters* who claims to be a lesbian and a feminist. She is known for her lesbian historical novels set in the Victorian era where she depicts the way woman who felt affection towards another woman lived in that era and their emotional development. In *The Night Watch*, she took a similar approach, however, she chose to set her characters in the period of Second World War, more precisely in London after and during the Blitz. Almost all characters are women except for one who is a male – a brother of one of the other main characters. *Waters* gave her characters jobs that were specific for the time period for women and especially the Second World War. As it was mentioned in the theoretical part, women, especially in Britain, women had to volunteer for certain jobs performed by men before the war. The *National Service (No. 2) Act 1941* required women to register for particular jobs, nevertheless, it only applied to unmarried women. That is the case of all three main female characters in *The Night Watch* where one of the characters Viv worked for the Ministry of War or Kay who worked as an ambulance driver.

Nonetheless, *The Young Lions* has no reason to include female characters' occupations. There is only mentioned that some of the female characters are wives of soldiers or Lieutenants etc. and if there is mentioned their job it is something like working as a secretary and so on. Giving an example, Christian visits Berlin on leave and he has to deliver a present for Lieutenant Hardenburg's wife called Gretchen. That is when he starts to visit her regularly and have an affair with her. However, as a lonely married woman whose husband left to fight in a war, she had more than just one lover and she even asks Christian if he has a lover in Berlin. Christian is in Berlin after a long time so he answers he does not have any girl in Berlin to which she replies:

Poor Sergeant. Poor lying Sergeant. I have a Lieutenant in Leipzig, a Colonel in Libya, a Captain in Abbeville, another Captain in Prague, a Major in Athens, a Brigadier General in Ukraine. That is not taking into account my husband, the Lieutenant, in Rennes.⁴⁷

Married women whose husband is fighting in a war in a different country so far away felt lonely and it is apparent that they find more than just one lover to keep them company. In addition, the relationship of Lieutenant's wife and Christian quickly changes into something more. He falls in love with her, which is a situation that could also happen when a soldier met a married woman and had an affair with her. The more he saw her the more he fell for her which could have been dangerous if her husband found out about it or the woman did not feel the same way.

Visiting a married woman's apartment and having an affair with them was a usual thing to happen when soldiers went on their leave during the war. Christian had an affair with a married woman from France before he met Lieutenant Hardenburg's wife. He would visit his French lover called Corinne often as he was with his group in France. There is a scene where he visits her and she has been already waiting for him:

Christian went up the creaking old steps and knocked on Corinne's door. The door opened quickly, as though Corinne had been awake, waiting for him. She kissed him warmly. She was in a nightgown, almost transparent, and her heavy, firm breasts were warm from bed as Christian held her to him.⁴⁸

The relationship he had with Corinne is the opposite of what he had with Gretchen. Christian fell in love with Gretchen but she did not seem to feel the same even though she might have shown some affection towards him. Whereas when he was with Corinne, he did not feel anything for her but she did.

The Young Lions do not show women only as lonely beings who have many lovers besides their husbands. They are also portrayed as faithful and loving wives, for example, Noah and his wife Hope. Their relationship is different from those the reader encounters with Christian's character. Noah loves his wife and she loves him, therefore, he wants to be with Hope as soon as possible, however, the war does not allow it. He even tries to run away from

⁴⁷ Irwin Shaw, *The Young Lions* (The University of Chicago Press, 2000), 148.

⁴⁸ Irwin Shaw, *The Young Lions* (The University of Chicago Press, 2000), 140-141.

the army which is considered a crime and he gets imprisoned for it. Hope comes to see him and then in that scene, it is shown how much they love each other. The following scene is when Hope is forced to leave as the time for her visit is up:

Noah came over to her and they kissed. She took his hand and held it for a moment against her cheek. But the MP said, "All right, Lady," and she went through the door. She turned before the MP could close it again and saw Noah standing there, thoughtfully watching her. He tried to smile, but it didn't come out a smile. Then the MP closed the door, and she didn't see him again.⁴⁹

There are many more scenes where Noah and Hope's relationship is shown in contrast to relationships Christian has with married women wherever he has to stay at the moment because of the war. It is clear that the author is a male and the way he portrays women in the novel could be also taken from his experience with women as he had an affair with some women when he was in Europe. Additionally, *Shaw* was married and had a wife back in America, nevertheless, it is not known whether she was as loving and faithful wife as Hope from the novel.

On the contrary, *The Night Watch* is evolving mainly around women as the author is a woman herself. Besides describing the life of lesbians during the Second World War and their relationships, *Waters* took a great approach when presenting their life as ordinary unmarried women during the Blitz. *The Night Watch* portrays women as strong and empowered human beings who can fill in jobs performed by men before they went to fight in the war. *Waters'* characters are also independent and do not need men to support them because they can do anything on their own. Some of the characters work as ambulance drivers and some as secretaries.

Being an ambulance driver was not an easy job for women because they had to face many obstacles. First of all, not many women were able to drive because it was a thing only men could do and women were not allowed to drive cars until it was needed during the First World War. The first war was not only the first war in which most of the countries from around the world participated but also the first time women were free to learn how to drive a vehicle. *The Night Watch* presents some women characters as ambulance drivers; however, it is not in the first war but it is set during the Second World War in London. During that time many

⁴⁹ Irwin Shaw, *The Young Lions* (The University of Chicago Press, 2000), 335.

women were able to drive as it was not as unusual for them as before the First World War. Nevertheless, women who have not applied for the job voluntarily but were assigned to be ambulance drivers must have known how to drive or they would be assigned for a different job, perhaps as part of the ambulance crew.

Second of all, women had to have strong mental health and they must have been brave because as ambulance drivers they had to leave the garage to save lives when the Blitz took place. The air raids usually happened at night and that might have made the work of an ambulance driver even scarier. Some women applied for the job voluntarily and some were assigned to it as it has been already mentioned several times in the thesis. The ambulance driver job was included in the *Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS)* as part of the *National Service (No. 2) Act 1941* and according to that unmarried women who could drive were assigned to be ambulance drivers or part of the ambulance crew because if something happened to the driver there had to be someone to replace them.

For instance, in *The Night Watch*, Kay and her co-worker and friend Mickey are part of the ambulance crew where Kay is the driver but Mickey can drive a vehicle as well in case something happened to Kay. The novel presents various scenes where is Kay with her ambulance crew on their way to save lives after an air raid. There is a scene where Kay and Mickey are saving Viv after she has undergone an abortion, it shows an example when the ambulance crew can take turns driving. Kay asks Mickey if Mickey could drive instead of her because she would take care of Viv in the back of the ambulance:

She heard Kay speak, telling Mickey that Mickey could drive, while she stayed in the back; then the bunk tilted slightly as Kay climbed in. Viv looked up – looking for Reggie, wanting to let him sit beside her and hold her hand.⁵⁰

Nevertheless, the job requires not only driving skills but also being able to be on alert the whole night. That may be complicated when the woman who works as an ambulance driver is in a relationship with someone, like Kay and Helen. Kay left every night for her job and Helen was alone in their flat either reading papers or listening to the radio:

‘I’ll read my book,’ Helen had said, when Kay was leaving. ‘I’ll listen to the wireless. I’ll change into my lovely new pyjamas and go

⁵⁰ Sarah Waters, *The Night Watch* (Virago Press: Little, Brown Book Group, 2006), 411.

to bed.’ And she had meant it. For almost an hour after Kay had gone, she’d stayed on the sofa reading Frenchman’s Creek.⁵¹

It must have been hard for people whose partner was an ambulance driver because they felt lonely at night and sometimes even during the day since their partner was tired because of the night shift. Nonetheless, it seemed like some women enjoyed working as an ambulance driver, for example, Kay. She seems keen on saving people’s lives and it looks like she took her job as her life purpose. When the war is over, she retires and what she does is either staying in her rented room or aimlessly wandering around London.

There were also women who wanted to be independent and tried to solve issues by themselves without men’s help, the novel presents a situation where one of the characters called Viv learns she is pregnant with her lover. She tries to find a solution on her own and does not want anyone to know about her situation. She even convinces herself that it cannot be the fault of her lover Reggie by defending him:

No, she thought. She wouldn’t believe it. She said to herself, You’ll be all right. She straightened her clothes. Her hands were shaking. Every girl gets scared; but not you. Reggie’s too careful. You’re OK. You’re all right. You can’t be!⁵²

When Viv says that every girl gets scared, she adds that she is not one of those girls highlighting that she is different because she is stronger than the other girls. However, some days go by and she gets the morning sickness characteristic for the early months of pregnancy. She is not as bright and strong as she was and one of her co-workers named Betty notices her strange behaviour and asks her about it. Viv is not in the mood to talk about it at the moment because she did not want except for herself to know, nonetheless, she is stressed and cannot deal with it on her own anymore, thus she talks with Betty about it. Betty attempts to convince her to tell Reggie because he has to know since he is the father but Viv still thinks she can dispose of the foetus on her own. When she has a conversation with her friend where Viv mentions the reasons why she cannot tell Reggie, she claims that she has to deal with the disposal of the foetus alone:

‘His wife – she’s kid crazy. It’s all she wants him for. What he gets from me, it’s different... That’s why I’ve got to fix it by myself,’ said

⁵¹ Sarah Waters, *The Night Watch* (Virago Press: Little, Brown Book Group, 2006), 343.

⁵² Sarah Waters, *The Night Watch* (Virago Press: Little, Brown Book Group, 2006), 253.

Viv. ‘Don’t you see? If it turns out that, after all, I’m just like her–’

53

Viv wants to show that she is independent but also does not want to lose Reggie because if he knew he would end the relationship with her. She would not be special anymore and that is what bothered her too. In the end, she tells Reggie and he is more than willing to help her. He is not the type of a man he would leave her because of such a thing – he must have known it was partly his fault that Viv is pregnant.

Waters does a great job when describing Viv’s complicated situation which might be relatable to many women even today, although today it is safer to undergo an abortion. Nevertheless, abortion is a topic still widely discussed even now and it is not easy to tell anyone that a woman wants to undergo something as controversial as the disposal of an unborn baby. Therefore, it must have been even harder for women in the 20th century to deal with getting unintentionally pregnant and having to solve the problem themselves.

Thus, Betty stops convincing Viv in the end and suggests her some techniques which should help her to solve her troublesome situation. Finally, when Viv tries every method there is, she gives up and decides to tell Reggie who would not be happy about it, however, she feels helpless. The strength and bravery she had are gone now and the reader gets to see Viv break down and ask her lover for help.

2.1.3 Kay, Helen, and Julia as part of LGBTQ+

Sarah Waters’ typical novel is about lesbian characters and their relationship, set in some historical time period, usually the Victorian era. However, the novel *The Night Watch* is her first novel which presents lesbian characters at a different time period. The novel tells a story of two female characters who are lesbians and two other characters – a straight female and a male whose sexuality is unknown but he is most likely homosexual.

It is interesting that *Waters* takes a quite modern topic of homosexual romance and places it in a time period which is unusual for such a topic since the romantic relationship of people of the same sex was not accepted until very recently. As the LGBTQ+ community has not existed until the 1960s taking such a topic and setting it in the Second World War era may

⁵³ Sarah Waters, *The Night Watch* (Virago Press: Little, Brown Book Group, 2006), 296.

appear to be uncommon and almost strange. Kay and Helen are two of the main characters whom both fell in love and dated Julia at some point in the novel.

Their lives are tangled as Kay dated Julia first, however, after some time they break up and Kay lives alone and fully focuses on her job as an ambulance driver. One day she is called to rescue some people from a bombed area and when she arrives, she meets a girl called Helen whose half of her body is covered with rubble. The scene where Kay meets Helen is at the end of the novel as it is written in a retrospective style, therefore, the reader finds out of this love triangle more information gradually.

The novel in its first part presents Helen dating Julia and the second part of the novel, which could be considered as the main part, shows Helen dating Kay. Nevertheless, Helen is not satisfied with the way Kay approaches their relationship and so Helen starts to fall in love with Julia who is, in fact, Kay's ex-lover. Their relationships are tested due to the war and other influences, for example, holding back when going on a date. The time period, in which the story is set, is not in favour of publicly talking about their relationship or showing affection towards each other in public. Thus, it was hard for two women to be publicly dating.

When Helen and Julia go on a date they cannot kiss or hold their hands because someone could see them and that made the girls feel uncomfortable. Therefore, they could only secretly touch their hands or other parts of their partner's body as it is mentioned in one particular scene: She moved her hand, thinking this – just touched her knuckles to Julia's thigh, where no one could see.⁵⁴

Helen and Julia were lying next to each other on a blanket in a park where they came to have a picnic. As everybody knows, it is a public place where people go for a walk or meet with other people. Helen and Julia could go on dates to public places but as suggested before they could not have hold hands as a couple consisting of a man and a woman. The only time they can spend comfortably together is when they are at home. *Waters* is not holding back when describing love scenes and it also applies to love scenes of straight couples. Even though the scenes could be even more detailed, for some readers it may be uncomfortable to read the scenes as it is. There are many scenes happening in private for reasons which have been already mentioned. To give an example of how detailed *Waters*' describes intimate scenes in the novel:

⁵⁴ Sarah Waters, *The Night Watch* (Virago Press: Little, Brown Book Group, 2006), 55.

Then she moved behind her and held her breasts, taking the weight of them against her palms. She felt the swell of Hellen's buttocks, the sliding of the skin of her plump thighs inside the satin. She put her cheek against Helen's ear. 'You're beautiful.'⁵⁵

It is Helen's birthday and Kay bought a satin pyjama and gave it to her. Helen puts the pyjama on and they talk about how pretty Helen looks in them and then the intimate scene begins. If the reader does not know *Sarah Waters* and her novels then they might be surprised to come across such scenes. *Waters* perhaps wanted to give LGBTQ+ community something they could relate to because there usually are not novels for lesbians about romantic lesbian relationships. There may be sold some novels like *Sarah Waters'* but for much younger audience like teenagers or young adults. *The Night Watch* is probably aimed at an older audience; therefore, a typical reader of *Waters'* would be women in their 30s and 40s. However, that does not mean that younger readers would not enjoy reading *The Night Watch*. It is fascinating to read about women who would be officially part of the LGBTQ+ community today and they could express their feelings even in public freely, although it could still make people turn heads which happens even when a heterosexual couple is kissing, so it would still be more accepted than in the Blitz era.

2.2 Final thoughts

The final thoughts are a part of the thesis where is discussed some particular characters' life story or at least the part of their life shown in the novels and also thoughts on bought books, for example, how can certain readers feel after reading both books and which one of them they would prefer to read again. Firstly, for the part where the characters' stories will be discussed, there were chosen stories that seem to be underrated or not spoken of much. Duncan's story was chosen to be analysed in particular because his sexuality is unknown, however, some signs point to him being gay, furthermore, it is not clear what was the reason for him being imprisoned.

⁵⁵ Sarah Waters, *The Night Watch* (Virago Press: Little, Brown Book Group, 2006), 313.

Lastly, a very important part of *The Young Lions*' story where all three main characters meet will be analysed and discussed. There will be mentioned what could have happened if Noah and Michael were not sent to go for a walk, etc.

2.2.1 Duncan's story

Duncan is the only male main character in *The Night Watch* and his story may not interest many people as most of the novel focuses on the lives of female characters and how they cope with the war-time. However, Duncan's story is mysterious and filled with secrets because there are some scenes where the way he acts seems fascinating and the reader may ask why and what caused him to be that way.

The first time the novel introduces Duncan to the reader is when Duncan accompanies Mr Mundy to a physician which he visits with Mr Mundy regularly. Duncan refers to Mr Mundy as Uncle Horace and so it may be confusing in the beginning because the third-person narrator refers to him as Mr Mundy whereas Duncan's character calls him Uncle Horace. Duncan's co-workers at the candle factory also did not know that Mr Mundy was not Duncan's real uncle. It is mentioned that he has a day off on Tuesdays and works on Saturdays instead:

They were very good about it, at the factory where he worked. 'That boy's devoted to his uncle!' he'd heard them say, many times. They didn't know that Mr Mundy wasn't actually his uncle. They had no idea what kind of treatment he received from Mr Leonard; probably they thought he went to a hospital. Duncan let them think what they liked.⁵⁶

The retrospective approach of the author of presenting the story throws the reader straight into the part of Duncan's life when it has been 2 years since the war ended and it is uncovered slowly what happened to him before he lived with Mr Mundy and it is shown a part of his life he spent in prison. At the present time when he is working at a candle factory, he encounters a man who used to be his cellmate called Robert Fraser who is surprised to see Duncan working at the candle factory. Nevertheless, Duncan does not recognise the man who

⁵⁶ Sarah Waters, *The Night Watch* (Virago Press: Little, Brown Book Group, 2006), 7.

claims to know him and it surprises him to hear Fraser's name again. Fraser is excited to see his ex-cellmate while Duncan seems shocked and perhaps a bit uncomfortable:

Duncan was too stunned, for a moment, even to speak. He'd felt, in an instant, plunged right back into the world of their old hall: the smells of it, the muddled, echoey sounds of it, the grinding misery and fear and boredom...⁵⁷

As to why he felt this way brings the question. Duncan might have had a hard time in the prison and Fraser could be his bully. That would explain why he was happy to see Duncan but Duncan was not happy to see him and rather got reminded of the prison atmosphere.

On the other hand, they might have been friends when they were in prison together and after their punishments ended, they never saw each other again which could have been caused by the fact that one of them might have left the prison sooner and they forgot to exchange contacts. Duncan may be an introvert who has to take in the fact he meets his old friend again. However, in the part of the novel which is set during the war when Duncan is in prison, it is clear that Duncan and Fraser were not friends at all. They were only cellmates for the most part. Fraser had strong opinions about the war and never hesitated to share them with other inmates whereas Duncan preferred to stay silent and only speak if necessary. Fraser must have been jealous of him and the way he thinks and presents his opinions to avoid offending anyone. Moreover, Duncan's friendly relationship with one of the officers could also highlight the fact that Fraser did not have many friends in the prison. The officer with whom Duncan had a friendly relationship was Mr Mundy who later became a father figure to Duncan. Mr Mundy showed his fatherly affection towards Duncan in a characteristic way:

Mr Mundy was standing, looking in. For, just as he knew how to walk so gently, so he also knew, he said, when any of his men were troubled and couldn't sleep... He stood there, quite still, for almost a minute. Then, 'All right?' he called, very softly. Duncan didn't answer at first. He was afraid that Fraser would wake. But finally, 'All right!' he whispered. And then, when Fraser didn't stir, he added: 'Good night!'⁵⁸

⁵⁷ Sarah Waters, *The Night Watch* (Virago Press: Little, Brown Book Group, 2006), 40.

⁵⁸ Sarah Waters, *The Night Watch* (Virago Press: Little, Brown Book Group, 2006), 219-220.

Mr Mundy would walk every evening in the hallway checking on “his men” and Duncan was one of them. Therefore, Fraser must have felt excluded but rather than being jealous of Duncan, he understood that the way he presented himself in prison was not friendly at all. That could have been the reason why, when they suddenly met after the war, Fraser thought of Duncan as his friend rather than just an ex-cellmate. It seems like Duncan was afraid to approach people and become friends with them. The reason which may answer that is presented in the last part of the novel which is set before Duncan’s prison life. Before that he used to live with his parents and he had a close friend called Alec. Duncan and his friend Alec planned to kill themselves because they did not want to join the army. Alec also shares his opinion on the war with Duncan:

We never wanted to go to the war. There ought to be a place for people like us. They ought to let the stupid people fight, and everybody else – everyone who cares about important things, things like the arts, things like that – they ought to be allowed to go and live somewhere on their own, and to hell with Hitler...⁵⁹

Alec wanted to say that it was not their war to fight in and that they should not be forced to join the army because they have nothing which would make them fight for the cause of someone else. That idea is adopted by Duncan and appears earlier in the novel where he discusses this matter with Fraser. In the end, it is only Alec who commits suicide and Duncan stays alive because he was probably too scared to take his own life. Nonetheless, he loses his best friend for whom he might have had romantic feelings about which he has never told Alec. He must have been angry at the war and that it took his best friend away and so he perhaps stayed with Alec’s dead body until he was found and accused of being his murderer. That accusation sent him to prison, however, he knew he did not kill Alec he did not try to convince people otherwise. Perhaps, getting himself into prison was better than taking his own life so he could avoid joining the army and fighting on a battlefield, miles away from his home.

Throughout the novel, there are signs that Duncan is probably a homosexual even though it is claimed that his sexuality is unknown. Sometimes it is not clear whether he is attracted to women or men, therefore, he could be bisexual. Although it is not courteous to guess someone’s sexuality, the novel gives several signs that Duncan is homosexual. When he

⁵⁹ Sarah Waters, *The Night Watch* (Virago Press: Little, Brown Book Group, 2006), 481.

is in the prison with his cellmate Fraser the way his feelings are described towards Fraser points to the fact that he likes men:

He wasn't talking to Duncan, really; he was talking to the darkness, to himself. He might have been murmuring in his sleep. But the effect was more intimate, somehow, than if he'd been whispering into Duncan's ear.⁶⁰

This scene may suggest that Duncan is still not fully aware of his sexuality, however, it is more likely that he is attracted to men rather than women. Furthermore, the way the story continues he gradually realises what his sexuality might be.

2.2.2 The final scene in *The Young Lions*

People who read *The Young Lions* might be curious whether the three main characters meet at some point in the story. It seems inevitable for the characters to meet in the end and it becomes clear once Noah and Michael enter the concentration camp from which Christian escaped few hours before they arrived. The final scene takes place in a nearby forest where Christian hid and Noah with Michael happen to walk past the forest. When Christian spots them he wonders whether to attack them or not, mainly because there could be more American soldiers around who would find him and did not hesitate to kill him. Nevertheless, the satisfaction of killing an American was so tempting that he could not hold back and so he shoots Noah. Christian was satisfied because that was perhaps the last successful thing he would do as a Nazi Germany's soldier:

Well, Christian thought disgustedly, that was a nicely botched job! He listened carefully, but there were no sounds along the road or in the forest. The two Americans had been alone, he decided...⁶¹

Christian looked up to Lieutenant Hardenburg and now he got a chance to become someone like his superior. He felt proud about killing an enemy who did not expect it just like he has seen Hardenburg once do. On the contrary, Michael lost someone to whom he struggled to get close to and understand him. Moreover, Michael has seen Noah as someone who grew up and became more confident because of the war which is something Michael could not

⁶⁰ Sarah Waters, *The Night Watch* (Virago Press: Little, Brown Book Group, 2006), 305.

⁶¹ Irwin Shaw, *The Young Lions* (The University of Chicago Press, 2000), 656.

achieve. Noah is a true hero of this novel because of what he had to go through and the self-growth he got to experience. Noah did not deserve to die the way he did but his death might have helped Michael to grow and become a true soldier when he hunts down Christian in the forest and kills him:

Then he saw the American. The American wasn't cautious any more. He walked directly up to him, through the thin green sunlight. The American was no longer young, and he didn't look like a soldier. The American stood over him. Christian grinned. "Welcome to Germany," he said, remembering his English. He watched the American lift his gun and press the trigger.⁶²

Christian remembered everything he has gone through during the war and remembered his love Gretchen and the moments he spent with her. He knew there is not much time left for him in this world because the American, Michael, was getting close. Everything Christian dreamed about and believed in was gone. Nonetheless, it did not seem like he regretted anything he had done during the war and whom he killed. He even had the nerve to joke and welcome a person, who was ready to kill him, in his own country.

On the other hand, killing Christian was something Michael had to do to feel relieved. He had to do it for Noah because he knew that Noah was the one whom the war changed the most. Perhaps, he felt it should have been him who was shot dead and not someone precious as Noah:

This is where I probably catch it, Michael thought. But it was the only way out. Find the man who had fired the two shots before the man found him. The only way out. For Noah. For himself.⁶³

Michael probably believed he would become a true soldier; someone he could be proud of. That killing the man who shot Noah would make him feel better about this whole war and that this is finally something which would change him for the better. However, he did not feel like a true soldier even after he killed Christian. He might still see Noah as someone who was the true soldier and that he would never become one even after killing multiple men.

⁶² Irwin Shaw, *The Young Lions* (The University of Chicago Press, 2000), 662.

⁶³ Irwin Shaw, *The Young Lions* (The University of Chicago Press, 2000), 658.

Additionally, Noah was killed without knowing he was in danger of being killed but the things he learned during the time of being a soldier made him a hero no matter the way he died. Perhaps the way he died made him the real hero of the story whereas Christian who wanted to resemble Lieutenant Hardenburg acted like a coward who never could be a hero because of the way he enjoyed killing his enemies – killing them when they were enjoying themselves, or when they were happy:

This was too much. Too much. Lying here so long, watching men you were going to kill wake up, cook their breakfast, light cigarettes, go relieve their bowels. There were fifteen or twenty men now, spread out, away from the trucks, with their trousers down...⁶⁴

At that time, Christian would attack them right away because he did not want to watch them like this, however, he took that opportunity to kill the enemy the same way Hardenburg would do it if he was alive.

In conclusion, Michael did not feel as a true soldier, even after he killed Noah's murderer and Noah died as a true hero – the time he spent in the army taught him what it means to be strong and fight for himself, and he became a strong soldier – the complete opposite of who he was when he entered the army. Christian on the other hand died as a loser, losing everything he believed in.

⁶⁴ Irwin Shaw, *The Young Lions* (The University of Chicago Press, 2000), 194.

Conclusion

The thesis aims to compare the literary versions of World War II. in contemporary novels *The Young Lions* and *The Night Watch* that were chosen to be compared and analysed in this thesis.

The first part of the thesis is the theoretical part where are discussed two main contexts that are the historical context and the literary context. Both of these bring the background from the historical events and topics that are included in either of the novels, furthermore, the literary context presents some facts and background of the authors and their work, additionally, the literary context gives some information about the time during which the author wrote the novel and the time they lived in. It is necessary to know what the main differences and similarities are, also motives for the author to present a story in their novel that can be only found through such research.

The first topic of the theoretical part focuses on the historical context that is the Second World War, the countries included in the conflict, and their point of view. The part about the Second World War summarises the conflict and points out important events that happened during that time and some of them are mentioned by the authors in their novel. The next topic is the countries that were included in the war and played a big role in the conflict, moreover, the countries are mentioned because they are the home countries of the main characters from the novels.

For instance, Great Britain, which is the home country for characters from *The Night Watch*, played a huge role in the war because its political decisions tried to prevent the war from taking place. However, their attempts to prevent the war failed mainly because of the policy of Appeasement that solved every issue, which might lead to the war, by talking and trying to reach a compromise. Nevertheless, Appeasement was the main factor that helped Germany to do whatever it wanted because Great Britain did not want to use physical power to stop Germany from attacking other countries. On the other hand, Great Britain tried to help to stop the war as one of the Allies. It was not easy as Great Britain was one of Hitler's main targets. Hitler sent the Luftwaffe, which was the German Air Force, to destroy Britain's essential industry centres, also its capital city, London, which is the main setting of *The Night Watch*.

Another country mentioned in the historical context section is the United States which as a country located on the other side of the world did not have much to do with the war at first. The Americans did not want to be included in the conflict which they considered Europe's

problem, therefore they tried to avoid entering the war as long as possible. It was not until the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor which was the American military base in the Pacific Ocean. That was the point where the Americans woke up their patriotism and were eager to fight for their country. The Americans never brought the war on their continent but their military units were spread around the world where they fought their enemy. They fought in Europe, northern Africa, and in the Pacific with the Japanese. Many of these locations and battle scenes are captured in *The Young Lions*.

The following topic is not about Germany as the country itself but about its leader who was the one who started the Second World War to conquer as many nations and countries as possible. He was called Germany's Führer and appeared out of nowhere. Adolf Hitler entered politics and wanted to make Germany the great country it used to be again, but his first attempts to do so failed. Nevertheless, he made a powerful comeback and ended up as Germany's leader. The Germans were tired of the financial and social crisis which their country had to deal with since the end of the First World War, therefore, Hitler who came with a solution, the population accepted it and strongly supported it. Hitler offered them the light at the end of the tunnel and the fact that he was very good at public speaking and persuading people, majority of Germans became Hitler's fans and supporters – they even adopted the thought of hatred of Jews and their slow elimination. Therefore, the power of Hitler's words brought him the fame and power he wanted so he could build a strong military and show the whole world how powerful Germany is.

In addition, there are researched two other topics which appear in the novels at some point, and the way people perceive the topics today are different from the past. The first of the topics is the way women were during the war and what happened to them when the majority of men had to enter the army. It depended on the country and to what extent it was included in the war. For example, European countries and women living there had to replace men at some jobs which is something that happened also during the First World War. It was easier to adapt to that for women after previous experience and so it was more frequent for women to know how to drive a car, etc. On the contrary, women living in countries such as the United States did not have to obey any official Acts which would force them to do jobs previously done by men like, for example, women in Britain.

The last of the historical context's topics is the LGBTQ+ community which is a topic appearing in *The Night Watch*. The LGBTQ+ community is people who identify themselves as homosexual, bisexual, or of any other sexuality. At the time of the Second World War, there

was no such thing as an official community for these people, however, that does not exclude the fact that homosexuals, bisexuals, or pansexuals did not exist in the past but there was no official community from them to them. Homosexuality was not accepted back then as it is now and so everyone who identified themselves as homosexual and was in a relationship with someone of the same sex, had to keep it to themselves otherwise people would hate them and victimise them. Furthermore, some countries punished homosexuals by imprisoning them to separate them from society – it happens even today in some regions in the world.

The historical context is then followed by the literal context where is presented literature of the 20th century and the 21st century to see what has changed and to understand as to why the books are classified the way they are. It is shown that there are not so many differences between writing in the 20th century and the 21st century. Then the focus goes to genres of the books which is war novel and lesbian historical fiction. *The Young Lions* is not mentioned as a war novel often but it is compared to other war novels such as Ernst Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* because both of them perfectly describe the battle scenes and give so much detail to those scenes thanks to what the authors experienced in the war. Then the thesis presents that something as lesbian and gay historical novel exists, however, not many people know about it, and because of that there is not much information about it.

Then the literary context discusses the authors and the possible influence their life had on writing their novels. There is shown that the majority of *The Young Lion's* story is taken from *Irwin Shaw's* life and experiencing the war was a major factor for him to write the novel. He wanted to share what he had to experience as a soldier, through the three main characters in the novel: Michael, Noah, and Christian. The other author, *Sarah Waters*, and her novel are discussed next. The information which is given in this thesis indicates that *Waters* as a part of the LGBTQ+ community wanted to write about romantic relationships she could relate to – same-sex relationships. *The Night Watch* was her first book which had a different setting – the story was not set in the Victorian era as usual but in London after and during the Second World War. That is where the theoretical part of the thesis ends.

The next part is the practical one where are compared and analysed both contemporary novels. Firstly, in this section, the thesis focuses on the differences and similarities in the way the novels present the theme of the Second World War. One of the main differences is that in *The Night Watch* the majority of the main characters are women whereas *The Young Lions* presents main characters who are all men and so *The Young Lions* offers more battle scenes and direct contact with the war and the way the main characters are influenced by it. Another

difference is that *Irwin Shaw* did not research to be able to write about the war because he was a soldier and fought on battlefields of the Second World War, therefore the detailed description of living in the barracks, training and finally the battles are something which *Sarah Waters* cannot offer in her novel. That may be a reason why she has chosen London as the setting for her story and female characters – in some of her novels are main characters men not only women, which may indicate that she could have written about an English soldier who is homosexual and fights on battlefields in Europe.

Secondly, another theme that was compared in the thesis was the role of women in each novel. The main difference between the two novels when it comes to portraying women is the amount of power the women have and the fact that *The Young Lions* does not have any main character who would be a female and so the female characters ended up as supporting characters in the novel who are portrayed as wives or the lovers of the soldiers. However, there are some scenes where *Shaw* portrays the female characters as strong and independent – they had to be independent because their man entered the army, therefore, women had to take care of themselves. For example, Hope who is Noah's wife has to deal with a life of a single mother because Noah is far away fighting in the war. The strength and independence of female characters are also presented in *The Night Watch*, however, it plays a more important role since the majority of the main characters are women. One of the characters, Viv, finds out that she is pregnant but that is unacceptable for the situation she is in. She is pregnant with her lover who is a married man, moreover, she is from a family which belongs to a higher class. At first, she tries to dispose of the foetus on her own but she is not successful. It took her some time to ask her lover for help and that required her to be strong and face his reaction.

After these two major topics, the thesis discusses the way lesbian couples had to live in secret and that they could not show any affection towards one another in public when heterosexual couples could do that. It is described what they could do in public and what they could do only in private.

Additionally, two more topics seemed very engaging to discuss and analyse in this thesis. The first one is Duncan's story where is analysed what his sexuality might be since many sources and critiques claim that Duncan's sexuality is unknown or he is questioning his sexuality. Through some scenes from the book could be seen that he inclines more towards being homosexual – the way he acts around men and mainly the way he feels towards Frazer with whom he shared a cell when he was in the prison. Another fact which points to Duncan being homosexual could also be the gossip other inmates spread about Duncan. The final thing

which supports the conclusion is that he was very close with his best friend Alec. Furthermore, this part analyses what was the exact reason for Duncan to be imprisoned and it was found out that it was the accusation of him being Alec's murderer and the fact that he did not want to enter the army, therefore, he chose not to tell the truth and confirmed that he is the one who killed Alec.

The last topic which is discussed in this thesis is the last scene from *The Young Lions* where all three main characters meet. One of them is a German soldier and the two of them are Americans. Noah who is one of the American soldiers ends up being killed by the German soldier called Christian. In this part, the thesis tries to answer why Christian decided to attack Noah and Michael when he could let them go past him without them noticing he is there. Christian is killed by Michael in the end, so the decision Christian made was not good at all – if he let them go, he could have survived. Besides analysing why Christian attacked Noah and Michael, another question arises which is whether Michael became a true soldier. He was proud of Noah because Noah reached the point where he became a true soldier and maybe Michael thought he would achieve it if he kills the man who murdered his friend Noah which did not happen.

The novels offer more things that could be analysed and compared, however, it depends on each reader how they absorb and understand the novels. Each reader sees different topics and events which they would discuss and analyse and this thesis pointed out probably the most important and visible differences and similarities. There could be found even more differences in the way each of the authors presented the theme of the Second World War but the thesis did not choose to discuss it. Also, the analysed topics at the end, are something which would not be chosen for analyses by everyone. For instance, further analyses of Christian's story and why he ended up the way he did in the book, or Kay's story – could be discussed why she ended up alone and was not able to find another girlfriend after the war ended. These were some suggestions for any possible future analyses or comparison of these two contemporary novels.

In conclusion, the thesis showed that there are more differences than similarities after comparing the two novels. The major differences are that in *The Young Lions* the theme of the Second World War was more important and influenced the characters more than it did in *The Night Watch*. Moreover, the way women are presented in each novel is different because *Sarah Waters* chose majority of the characters to be women whereas *Irwin Shaw* chose three men as the main characters. That choice was due to the fact that his aim was to tell a story about a life of a soldier, therefore, it would not work if he chose women to be the main characters.

Resumé

Cílem této bakalářské práce, českým názvem „Srovnání literárních verzí druhé světové války v současném románu,“ je porovnat dva romány – *The Night Watch*, česky *Noční hlídka*, a *The Young Lions*, česky *Mladí lvi*, které svůj děj zasazují do období druhé světové války a pokusit se najít zásadní odlišnosti a možné podobnosti mezi oběma romány. Tato práce je rozdělena na dvě hlavní části – teoretická část a praktická část.

V teoretické části obsahuje historický a literární kontext, kde jsou představena témata a události, které se objevují v ději jednoho z románů, a nebo ta témata, která souvisí s autorem. Například, co autora přimělo dílo napsat, případně, jak tvorba daného románu byla ovlivněna jeho životem.

V prvním oddílu teoretické části je uveden historický kontext, který nejprve představuje druhou světovou válku, jako světový konflikt, který ovlivnil to, jak lidé později vnímali svět. Zde je poukázáno na nejdůležitější události, které se během druhé světové války odehrávali, a hráli zásadní roli v jejím průběhu. Například Hitlerova invaze do Polska z roku 1939, a nebo útok Japonců na Americkou základnu Pearl Harbor v roce 1941. Dále je téma druhé světové války rozvedeno do větších detailů, když jsou zde představeny státy, které hráli v tomto válečném konfliktu a v obou románech významnou roli. Jsou zde představeni tři hlavní aktéři – Velká Británie, Spojené státy, a Německo. Velká Británie tehdy vedla politiku Appeasementu a snažila se tedy případné válce zabránit vyjednáváním s Hitlerem, což se nepodařilo a Británie byla nucena vyhlásit válku Německu. Hitler se rozhodl, že dobije Velkou Británii leteckými útoky jeho silným letectvem nazývaným Luftwaffe. Británie v té době kvůli tomu hodně trpěla a nespočet jejích měst bylo zničeno nebo zdemolováno – tyto nálety Luftwaffe se nevyhnuly ani Londýnu, kdy nejhorším obdobím byly roky 1940 až 1941. Toto hrůzné období bylo zachyceno v jedno z románů vybraných pro tuto bakalářskou práci – *Noční hlídka*, anglicky *The Night Watch*.

Spojené státy americké byly další zemí, která se do války zapojila ve velké míře. Nejprve jako neaktivní účastník posílala zásoby jídla a vojenské munice, jako pomocnou ruku, Velké Británii. Američtí občané s aktivním zapojením do války dlouhou dobu nesouhlasili, protože tato válka byla příliš daleko na to, aby je zajímala, natož nějak zásadně ovlivnila. A proto, že válkou nebyly Spojené státy nijak ovlivněny, neměli důvod do války aktivně zasahovat. Až jednoho osudného dne, kdy v roce 1941 Japonské císařské námořnictvo spolu s

lectvem zaútočilo na Americkou námořnickou základnu Pearl Harbor. Tato tragická událost v Američanech probudila patrioty, a proto již neměli důvod svůj vstup do války dále odkládat. Útok na Pearl Harbor se objevuje v románu *Mladí lvi*, anglicky *The Young Lions*, kdy se jedna z hlavních postav Michael o této události doslechne z rádia.

Poslední zemí, která je v historickém kontextu zmíněna je Německo, které v té době vedl Adolf Hitler, a proto se kapitola zabývá více Adolfem Hitlerem a jeho vlivem na Německo a jeho občany než Německem jako takovým. Adolf Hitler se najednou ocitl v politice a díky svému řečnickému umu, se mu podařilo dostat se do čela Německého státu. Díky tomu, jak byl přesvědčivý a dával naději Německému národu, který byl zničen krizí, která se s ním táhla od konce první světové války, a hlavně kvůli obsahu Versailleské mírové dohody z roku 1919, která uvalila na Německo válečné separace a zakázala jeho zbrojení a sestavování armády. Další věcí bylo, že Hitler nesnášel židovské obyvatelstvo a chtěl je všechny vyhladit – i tuto myšlenku většina Němců od Hitlera převzala, bohužel už ale nikdo nevěděl o tom, jaké hrůzy se odehrávají v koncentračních táborech. Do jednoho z nich se podívali i hlavní postavy z románu *Mladí lvi*, kdy poprvé na vlastní oči zjistí, jak strašné místo to je.

Dalším tématem je postavení žen za druhé světové války. Ty na rozdíl od mužů do války nemusely, ale také měly své povinnosti, které musely plnit. Na druhou stranu, záleželo na státu, jak moc byl do války zapojen, což určovalo, kolik povinností bude na ženy přenášeno. Vzhledem k tomu, že některé pracovní pozice byly uvolněny kvůli tomu, že muži, kteří je před válkou vykonávali, je museli opustit, bylo nutné, aby je někdo zastoupil. Toto byla příležitost pro některé ženy, aby se emancipovaly, ale stávalo se, že některým ženám se do práce nechtělo. Proto bylo nutné, aby neprovdané ženy, které nechtěly dobrovolně nastoupit do volných pracovních pozic po mužích k tomu byly nějakým způsobem donuceny. Tím byl zákon o státní službě z roku 1941, kdy se bezdětné svobodné ženy museli přihlásit do jedné z nabízených služeb – ženské legie, pozemní armáda apod. V rámci jedné z těchto služeb bylo i řízení ambulancí a zdravotní sestry. Řidičky ambulancí musely vyjíždět kdykoliv bylo potřeba, i když se konal nálet na dané město. Některé ženy ze svých zkušeností poukazují na to, že to vůbec nebyla bezpečná práce, ale zároveň jim tato práce dávala pocit, že vykonávají záslužnou práci a pomáhají lidem. Právě toto zaměstnání, řidičky ambulance, se objevuje v knize *Noční hlídka*, kde je jedna z hlavních hrdinek zaměstnaná jako řidička jedné z ambulancí.

Téma homosexuality nebo jiné sexuální orientace není v románech příliš časté, už jen proto, že většina lidí se s existencí homosexuálů nebo bisexuálů nechce smířit a akceptovat ji. V knize *Noční hlídka* je toto jedním z hlavních témat, protože sama autorka se identifikuje jako

lesbička. Ten, kdo se identifikuje jako homosexuál, bisexuál, nebo pansexuál patří do komunity LGBTQ+, která sdružuje takovéto lidi a pomáhá jim začleňovat se do společnosti. Komunita LGBTQ+ však není ni, co by tu bylo od počátku věků, je to celkem čerstvá záležitost. V době druhé světové války tu žádná taková komunita nebyla, a i když ani dnes někteří lidé homosexuály nerespektují, v minulém století byl přístup k takovýmto lidem ještě horší. Právě proto, je důležité uvědomit si, že podpora homosexuálů se od poloviny minulého století začala zlepšovat. Hlavní hrdinky z románu *Noční hlídka* – Kay a Helen – ovšem žily v době, kdy vztahy mezi mužem a mužem nebo ženou a ženou, byly zavrhovány, a proto se takový vztah musel tajit. Některé státy, za to, když byl někdo usvědčen z homosexuality, takového člověka uvěznil, a nebo dokonce popravili.

Například za druhé světové války byli mimo židů v koncentračních táborech vězněni také homosexuálové, kteří namísto žluté pěticípé hvězdy byli označováni růžovým trojúhelníčkem. Ten se později stal symbolem vzdoru a důstojnosti. Ve Velké Británii byli homosexuálové trestně stíháni až do roku 1957, kdy byl zveřejněna Wolfendenova zpráva, která navrhovala dekriminálníci homosexuálních vztahů a prostituce.

Dále pak následuje kapitola, která přibližuje literární kontext obou románů. Nejprve se zaměří na století, ve kterých byl každý z románů napsán, a pak kapitola pokračuje ve vymezení daných žánrů, do kterých romány spadají. Také je zde upřesněno, jak vypadá obecná tvorba jednotlivých autorů, a nebo, co je mohlo inspirovat k napsání románu, a informace o něm.

Literární kontext začíná úvodem do literatury 20. století. V té době se většina témat v literatuře zabývala druhou světovou válkou, což byla událost, která se zrovna nedávno odehrála, a byla atraktivní pro čtenáře, kteří válku sice prožili, ale ne jako aktivními účastníky na bojišti. Někteří si třeba chtěli osvěžit paměť, a proto pro bývalé vojáky bylo toto téma nostalgické. Mnohdy samotní muži, kteří bojovali na bojištích za druhé světové války chtěli sami přispět nějakým literárním dílem a povprávět své zážitky. Něco podobného se odehrávalo i po první světové válce. Téma války nepřineslo pouze pohledy na bojiště, ale také jiná témata, jako například téma holokaustu, kde přispěli židovští autoři, kteří přežili pobyt v koncentračním táboře a byli ochotni sdílet hrůzy, které tam museli prožít. Také někteří němečtí autoři chtěli psát o tom, co zažili ve Třetí říši – hlavně ve svých dílech chtěli varovat před nebezpečím nacismu. Když se nepsalo o válce a s ní spojenými tématy, autoři se zaměřili na krizi ve společnosti – problémy s komunikací mezi lidmi a následné deprese a pocity úzkosti.

Na téma druhé světové války navazuje válečný román, což je žánr, který se zaměřuje na téma války. Autor si vybere určitou válku, které se účastnil, nebo ho nějak ovlivnila a detailně popisuje její proces. V románu se pak objevují důležité situace, které se během války udály nebo důležité boje, s tím souvisejí i důležité lokace a ohniska dané války. Nejdůležitějším obdobím pro psaní válečných románů bylo 20. století, během něhož se odehrály dvě světové války. Většina autorů, kteří se tématu války věnují, v té válce bojovaly a nebo patřili pod zpravodajskou skupinu, která dokumentovala, co se děje na bojištích a podobně. Díky této zkušenosti, byli autoři schopni dokonale a detailně popsat postup války a také to, jak to vypadalo na bojišti a život mezi ostatními vojáky. Proto některé romány mohou připomínat spíše dokument nebo deník.

Nicméně, válečný román tu byl již dříve a ve 20. století se jen vrátil, kvůli světovým válkám, které tomuto žánru umožnily velký návrat. Jak již bylo řečeno, válečný román tu byl od nepaměti – v antice se začal popularizovat, a to nejen v literatuře, ale také v sochařství a malbě. Pak na chvíli tento žánr ustoupil, když se neválčilo tak hojně, aby to ovlivnilo více autorů najednou. To se vrátilo ve století, které bylo známé svými válečnými konflikty 17. století, kdy se odehrávala Stoletá válka, Třicetiletá válka atd. Každopádně stále nejvýznamnějším obdobím pro žánr válečného románu zůstává 20. století se svými světovými válkami, kdy nejznámějšími díly z toho období je román od Ericha Maria Remarquea, Na západní frontě klid, nebo dílo od Ernesta Hemingwaye, Komu zvoní hrana. Jedním z těch méně známých děl je román od Irwina Shawa, Mladí lvi, kteří mnoha kritiky jako válečný román sice označován není, ale podle toho, jak ho někteří kritici srovnávají s dílem Ernesta Hemingwaye, by se mezi válečné romány řadit mohl.

Irwin Shaw byl jeden z těch autorů, kteří druhou světovou válku zažili na jejích bojištích. Nejen svými zkušenostmi z války přispěl do svého románu *Mladí lvi*, ale také fakty ze svého civilního života. Irwin Shaw se narodil v New Yorku židovským rodičům, kteří do Ameriky imigrovali z Ruska. Tu samou charakteristiku, Shaw aplikoval na jednu z postav svého románu, Noah Ackermana. Noah není jednou postavou, která nese autorovu charakteristiku, ale také Michael Whitacre se v několika věcech Shawovi podobá – pracuje u divadla. Někteří dramatici roli Michaela berou jako zástupce samotného Irwina Shawa v *Mladých lvech*. Jak již bylo zmíněno, řada literárních kritiků srovnává dílo Ernesta Hemingwaye, Sbohem armádo, s Mladými lvi, a to kvůli tomu, že obě díla vykazují skvělý smysl pro detail a velice dobrý popis toho, jak to probíhalo na bojišti. Napomáhá tomu také fakt, že Hemingway byl, stejně jako Shaw v armádě a zažil válku z první ruky. V románu *Mladí*

lvi jsou zachyceny scény z různých koutů Evropy, Ameriky a také se zde objeví boje ze severní Afriky.

Následně je rozebrána literární tvorba 21. století, kdy Sarah Waters napsala román *Noční hlídka*. Literatura tohoto století je otevřena jakémukoliv stylu. Některé staré styly se vrací jiné, které byly populární i ve století předešlém, zůstávají populárními apod. Autoři si mohou psát o čem chtějí, jakékoli téma, které je aktuální, a hlavně pak sociální témata. Například, terorismus, homosexualita, využití moderních technologií apod. S tématem homosexuality a genderu navazuje popis toho, co znamená lesbická historická fikce. Je to žánr, který je zasazen do minulé doby, do minulého století a jako hlavním tématem je romantický vztah dvou lidí stejného pohlaví nebo jednou z hlavních postav je homosexuál, dnes člen LGBTQ+ komunity. Tento žánr není příliš známý, a proto o něm lze najít minimum informací. Nejlépe o tomto žánru pojednává autorka *Noční hlídka*, Sarah Waters.

Tato autorka prakticky odkázala svůj život psaním o tomto tématu, protože moc lidí se o tomto tématu nebaví a nebo do něj nejsou zainteresováni. Někteří kritici se shodují, že hlavní postavou v historických fiktích by měl být muž a je nepřipustné, aby hlavním hrdinou byla žena a nebo homosexuál. To se v dnešní době mění a tento žánr se postupně dostává do popředí. Sarah Waters je autorkou mnoha historických fiktí neboli lesbických historických fiktí. Převážně se zaměřuje na Viktoriánskou dobu, a *Noční hlídka* je jejím prvním románem, který se odehrává v jiné době, a to v době druhé světové války.

Nejtypičtějšímí tématy její pro díla jsou sexualita, gender, téma feminismu a role žen ve společnosti. To se skvěle daří vystihnout v románu *Noční hlídka*, kde jsou čtyři hlavní postavy, tři ženy a jeden muž. Tím, že většinou hlavních postav jsou ženy se naskytuje pohled na každodenní život žen z různých společenských vrstev a na to, jak byly ženy ve společnosti brány. Dále pak v *Noční hlídce* zachycuje, jak se homosexualita musela utajovat, protože za ni byly homosexuálové trestáni nebo uvězněni. Sarah Waters také dobře zachycuje kontrast mezi dnem a nocí, kdy den je mírumilovný, přátelský a klidný, zatímco noc je pochmurná, temná a smutná. Během noci totiž probíhaly nálety na Londýn, tzv. Blitz. *Noční hlídka* obsahuje detailní popis toho, jak to v Londýně mohlo vypadat během období náletů Luftwaffe na Londýn. Nové historické období nebylo pro Sarah Waters jedinou novou situací, které se musela postavit, a také to, že *Noční hlídka* je psaná retrospektivně a ne chronologicky, jako její předešlé romány. Proto může být pro některé čtenáře těžké udržovat krok s příběhem a neztratit se v něm.

Dále už začíná praktická část, ve které jsou porovnávány oba romány a analyzovány některé části z těchto románů. První podkapitolou praktické části je obecné porovnání a analýza obou románů – *Noční hlídky* a *Mladých lvů*. Jedna z podobností mezi oběma díly je to, že se oba příběhy odehrávají ve 40. letech 20. století, a to během druhé světové války. Další podobností je to, jak se postavy během příběhu rozvíjejí a mění je dané situace a také samotná válka, která je, jak už bylo řečeno, v obou dílech hlavním tématem. Avšak *Noční hlídka* je historickou fikcí na rozdíl od *Mladých lvů*, což je dílo, které lze pro jeho detailní popis průběhu války a válečných scén spíše za válečný román. Shaw se zaměřuje na detailní popis toho, co se děje na bojišti nebo během války a jakým způsobem to postavy v románu ovlivňuje, zatímco Sarah Waters se více zaměřuje na vztahy mezi jednotlivými postavami, a na jejich vývoj, retrospektivní formou vyprávění. To znamená, že čtenář začíná číst příběh s tím, že ví, jak vývoj postav skončil a postupně se zjišťuje, jak se do té situace, ve které jsou dostali. Naproti tomu příběh postav v *Mladých lvech* se rozvíjí postupně, chronologicky.

Porovnávání obou románů je dále rozebíráno podle jednotlivých témat, probíraných v teoretické části. Prvním z těchto témat je druhá světová válka a to, jak se v každém z románů objevila. V obou románech je válka stěžejním tématem, ale přesto se v *Mladých lvech* téma války objevuje intenzivněji a je více důležité pro vývoj příběhu a rozvoj hlavních postav. Zatímco v *Noční hlídce* je téma druhé světové války spíše v pozadí příběhu a jen někdy vyjde do popředí, aby nějakým způsobem ovlivnilo děj a postavy v něm. To, že se nějaký světový válečný konflikt odehrává se v *Noční hlídce* naznačuje hlavně zaměstnáním hlavních postav. Většina postav v tomto románu je zaměstnaná, jako úředníci na ministerstvech, která by mimo válku vůbec neexistovala, například Ministerstvo války nebo Ministerstvo potravin atd. Úkryty před nálety Luftwaffe jsou dalším náznakem probíhající války, kdy je v *Noční hlídce* několikrát zmíněno, že prostory podzemky jsou využívány, jako úkryt před nálety nebo veřejné sklepy. Na to navazují právě samotné nálety na Londýn, které jsou hlavním indikátorem probíhající války a práce jedné z hlavních postav, Kay, která jako dobrovolnice řídí automobil ambulance.

Na druhé straně tu pak je román *Mladí lvi*, který pojednává o válce do větších detailů, a jak již bylo zmíněno, válka je hlavním tématem celého románu. Hlavními postavami jsou tři vojáci, dva Američané a jeden Němec, kteří na vlastní kůži zažívají hrůzy odehrávající se na bojištích druhé světové války. Autor čtenáře zavede na bojiště ve Francii, Itálii, a dokonce v severní Africe. To vše je doprovázeno detailními popisy bojů a života vojáků. Jedním z hlavních událostí z druhé světové války, které jsou v románu zmíněny, je například invaze do Paříže roku 1940, očima jedné z hlavních postav, Německého vojáka Christiana. V románu je také zmíněn

útok na Americkou vojenskou základnu Pearl Harbor, o které se dozvídá skrze zprávu z rádia jiná z hlavních postav, a to Američan Michael. Ke konci románu se dokonce všem třem postavám naskytne pohled do koncentračního tábora, jedné z největších hrůz druhé světové války. Popis koncentračního tábora, který je hodně detailní a skutečně si čtenář představí, jak strašné muselo v takovém táboře být nebo jen do něj jako osvoboditel vstoupit, může naznačovat, že Irwin Shaw sám mohl být jedním z těch vojáků osvobozujících jeden z takových táborů. O tom ovšem nejsou žádné informace.

Role ženských postav v obou románech je dalším tématem, které je této práci porovnáváno. Prvním faktem je, že v *Mladých lvech* jsou ženské postavy pouze jako doplňující postavy, které jsou v pozici manželek čekajících na své muže, až se vrátí z války, a nebo milenky vojáků, kteří se zrovna naskytanou procházet daným městem nebo vesnicí. V *Noční hlídce* jsou však postavy žen důležitější – většina hlavních postav jsou ženy. Irwin Shaw neměl důvod jako své hlavní postavy mít ženy, a to hlavně z toho důvodu, že by se mu to nehodilo do příběhu, který chtěl o druhé světové válce z pohledu třech mladých vojáků.

Zatímco Sarah Waters jako lesbička a feministka, tyto rysy aplikovala na své ženské hlavní postavy, kterými jsou svobodné ženy, většinou lesbičky, které pracují na sebe – vydělávají peníze, aby se užívaly. Některé z nich se musely podřídit vládnímu nařízení, které jim přikazovalo, aby se "dobrovolně" přihlásily do dobrovolnických jednotek, ve kterých ženy pracovaly jako řidičky ambulancí, jako v *Noční hlídce* apod. Pracovat jako řidička ambulance nebylo jednoduché a obzvlášť pro ženy. Řidičky ambulance musely být vždy připraveny a vyrazit do akce i při probíhajícím náletu.

Pak jsou tu vedlejší postavy žen, z *Mladých lvů*, jako například Gretchen, manželka Christianova nadřízeného, poručíka Hardenburga. Gretchen sama Christianovi řekla, že on není jediným jejím milencem a že jich má spoustu po celé Evropě. Mnoho vdaných žen, kterým odešel muž do války zůstaly samy a potřebovaly náhradu za svého manžela, která se jim naskytla v podobě jiných vojáků, kteří se ve městě objevili jen na krátký čas, protože měli za úkol něco zařídit za svého nadřízeného, jako například Christian. Další ženskou postavou je manželka jednoho z hlavních hrdinů, Noaha, která se jmenovala Hope. Byla příkladem těch věrných manželek, které se svými potomky čekali, až se jim tatínek vrátí domů.

Částí, která navazuje na postavení žen v románu *Noční hlídka* a *Mladí lvi*, jsou postavy lesbiček v *Noční hlídce*. Dnes by tyto dívky byly považovány za členky LGBTQ+ komunity, která se ovšem zrodila až téměř ke konci 20. století. Tato sekce se snaží analyzovat život

lesbických párů v Londýně za druhé světové války. V románu se ve vztahu prostrídají tři dívky, dvě z nich jsou hlavními postavami, Kay a Helen, a tou třetí dívkou, která je vedlejší postavou, je Julie. V průběhu celého románu se prostrídají tři páry: Helen a Julia, Kay a Helen, Kay a Julia. Během toho je poukazováno na to, že homosexuální vztahy byly v té době považovány za něco nepřipustného a až nechutného. Ten homosexuální pár, který by byl odhalen, by byl napadán veřejností a zesměšňován, navíc by dotyční ztratili práci a nebyli by si schopni najít novou. V tom nejhorším případě by byli pokutováni nebo uvězněni za své "prohřešky". Proto se takový vztah musel udržovat v tajnosti a na veřejnosti se nesmělo dát najevo, že daná dvojice k sobě chová romantické city. Kdyby takové páry, jako ty, které jsou zachyceny v *Noční hlídce*, žily v dnešní době, lidé by tomu nevěnovali příliš pozornosti, protože už toto téma není tabuizované v takové míře, jako ve 40. letech minulého století. Sarah Waters velice dobře popisuje dobu, ve které se lesbické páry musely žít a držet svůj vztah v tajnosti.

Poslední z podkapitol jsou závěrečné myšlenky autorky bakalářské práce, která si vybrala dvě témata, která ji připadala zajímavá k rozebrání a analyzování. K takovéto analýze byl vybrán příběh jedné z postav z románu *Noční hlídka* – jediná hlavní mužská postava – Duncan. Zde jsou kladeny dvě hlavní otázky: k jaké sexualitě se Duncan spíše přiklání a jak skončil ve vězení, kde strávil celou válku.

Duncan je bratrem jiné z hlavní postav – Viv, která je vzornou dcerou svého otce, což o sobě Duncan říct nemůže. Jediným, s kým si rozumí je jeho nejlepší přítel Alec, který však spáchá sebevraždu. Původně měl Duncan spáchat sebevraždu spolu s Alecem, jako protest proti narukování do armády a pozdější účasti ve válce. Oba, a hlavně Alec, ji nepovažují za svou válku, ale za válku někoho jiného, a proto nevidí důvod se v ní nějak angažovat. Proto se raději rozhodnou svůj život ukončit sami. Duncan na to však nemá odvalu a po tom, co se Alec zabije, se nejspíš sám nahlásí jako jeho vrah, nebo je obviněn, ale nijak se proti tomu obvinění nesnaží bránit. Je možné, že pro něj je lepší přežít válku ve vězení, jako vrah nejlepšího přítele než zemřít jako voják ve válce. Bylo možné, že Alec nebyl jen Duncanův nejlepší přítel, ale také partner, na to však není v knize moc důkazů. Na Duncanovi je však v některých pasážích románu poznat, že si svou sexualitou není jistý, i když je v několika z nich naznačeno, že ho více přitahují muži.

Mnoho literárních kritiků postavu Duncana považuje za někoho, kdo si svou sexualitou není jistý. Několik faktorů však poukazuje na to, že by mohl být bisexuál, který je více přitahován k mužskému pohlaví. Jeho pobyt ve vězení a to, co o něm povídají spoluvězni naznačuje to, že Duncan je ve spíše homosexuál. Lze to zpozorovat ve scéně, kde si v cele se

svým spoluvězněm povídají o tom, jaké by to bylo mít v té chvíli dívku a moci se jí dotýkat, a oba u toho onanují. Tento fakt může naznačovat to, že Duncana přitahují ženy. Avšak, jednou ze scén, která spíše zobrazuje Duncana jako muže, kterého přitahuje stejné pohlaví, je scéna, kde si spoluvězeň Frazer lehne vedle Duncana do jeho postele, kvůli tomu, že má strach z právě probíhajícího náletu. Duncanovi myšlenky popisují to, jak vnímá Frazerovo tělo vedle sebe, a je tedy jasné, že se lze přiklánět k tomu, že Duncana přitahují muži. V každém případě každý může postavu Duncana pochopit jinak a není příliš vhodné určovat něčí sexualitu bez toho, aniž by ji on sám sdělil – což u knižní postavy ani nejde, a proto se lze pouze přiklánět k nějakému z názorů, než říkat, jak se ten daný člověk cítí.

Posledním ze dvou vypraných témat k analyzování je poslední scéna z románu *Mladí lvi*, kde se poprvé setkají všechny tři hlavní postavy. Christian je na útěku domů, převlečený za jednoho z vězňů z koncentračního tábora. Skrývá se v lese, když najednou zpozoruje dva Americké vojáky procházející se bezstarostně lesní cestou. Christian to vidí, jako poslední příležitost někoho v této válce zabít. Proto vystřelí a zabije Noaha, a Michael, který je toho svědkem, se bude chtít za Noahovu smrt pomstít. Christian se tím konečně stal někým komu se chtěl co nejvíce podobat a považoval ho za svůj vzor – poručík Hardenburg. Christian Noaha zabil stejným způsobem, jakým by to udělal Hardenburg. Bez toho, aniž by to oběť čekala, na ni zaútočit. Noah zemřel jako hrdina, i když ne přímo na bojišti. On byl totiž jedinou postavou, která se stala skutečným vojákem, přesto, že na začátku vojenského výcviku byl považován za toho nejslabšího. Na druhé straně Christian také něčeho dosáhl, stal se někým, jako by Hardenburg. Zatímco Michael se nikdy nestal pravým vojákem, i když si myslel, že by se tomu mohl přiblížit, když zabije Christiana a tím pomstí Noahovu smrt. I když zabije Christiana, nestane se pravým vojákem, stále zůstává tím, kým byl na začátku příběhu.

Závěrem je, že oba romány jsou si podobné jen dobou, ve které se odehrávají a tím, že každý román má více jak jednu postavu, a je vyprávěn třetí osobou. Rozdíl mezi nimi je však v tom, že příběh *Noční hlídka* je vyprávěn retrospektivně a příběh *Mladých lvů* postupuje chronologicky. Téma války v každém z románů je bráno také jinak – v *Mladých lvech* je téma války je primárním tématem, podle kterého je rozvíjen příběh hlavních postav, na rozdíl od románu *Noční hlídka*, kde je téma války spíše v pozadí příběhu, kterému tak dodává pochmurnou atmosféru.

Bibliography

Annis, Matt. *LGBTQ+ Matters*. Capstone Global Library Limited: Raintree, Oxford, 2019.

Balajka, Bohuš, Ladislav Soldán, Emil Charous. *Přehledné dějiny literatury II*. Fortuna Praha, 2005.

BBC. "WW2: Eight Months of Blitz Terror." BBC Teach. Accessed February 22, 2021. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/the-blitz-eight-months-of-terror/z7dyxyc>.

Beňová, Kateřina et al. *Analýza situace lesbické, gay, bisexuální a transgender menšiny v ČR*. Praha, 2007.

Binchy, Daniel A. "Adolf Hitler." *Studies: An Irish Quarterly Review* 22, no. 85 (March 1933): 29-47.

Calloway, Catherine. "War in Literature and Drama." *Oxford Bibliographies: Your Best Research Starts Here*, Last Modified January 11, 2018.

<https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199791279/obo-9780199791279-0004.xml>.

Canton, James. *The Literature Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained*. London: DK Penguin Random House, 2016.

Dukes, Jessica. "What is Historical Fiction?" *Celadon Books*, Accessed February 23, 2021 <https://celadonbooks.com/what-is-historical-fiction/>.

Gazeley, Ian. "Women's Pay in British Industry during the Second World War." *The Economic History Review* 61, no. 3 (August 2008): 651-671.

Hawes, James. *The Shortest history of Germany*. Old Street Publishing Ltd. 2018.

Hensher, Phillip. "Smoother than Velvet." *The Guardian*, January 8, 2006

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2006/jan/08/fiction.sarahwaters>.

Johnson, Paul. *Dějiny anglického národa*. Translated by Jan Lampera, Věra Lamperová. 2nd ed. Voznice: LEDA, 2012.

Johnson, Sarah. "Defining the Genre: What are the rules for historical fiction?" *Historical novel society*, Accessed February 19, 2021.

<https://historicalnovelsociety.org/guides/defining-the-genre-what-are-the-rules-for-historical-fiction/>.

Kershaw, Ian. "Hitler a Němci." In *Život ve Třetí říši*, Translated by Vladimír Čort, 69-85. Praha: Naše vojsko s. r. o. 2006.

Lamé, Amy. *From Prejudice to Pride: A History of the LGBTQ+ Movement*. London: Wayland, 2019.

Leavitt, David. "This is London," *The New York Times*, March 26, 2006.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/26/books/review/this-is-london.html>.

Liukkonen, Petri, Ari Pesonen. "Irwin Shaw (1913-1984)." *Internet Archive: Wayback Machine*. published 2008.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20100125094359/http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/ishaw.htm>.

Lynda G. Adamson, *World Historical Fiction: An Annotated Guide to Novels for Adults and Young Adults* (Oryx Press, 1999), Preface.

<https://archive.org/details/worldhistoricalf00adam/page/n13/mode/2up>.

McGrane, Michelle. "Sarah Waters on writing: 'If I waited for inspiration to strike, it would never happen!'," Internet Archive: Wayback Machine, Last Modified October 4, 2006.

https://web.archive.org/web/20070927222531/http://www.litnet.co.za/cgi-bin/giga.cgi?cmd=cause_dir_news_item&news_id=3630&cause_id=1270.

Morkesová, Eliška. *British and American History*. Ostrava: Impex, 1994.

Morkesová, Eliška. *British and American Literature*. Ostrava: Impex, 1994.

Nishita, "The Night Watch." *Nishita's Rants and Raves: About Books, Movies, Food, Shopping, and Travel*. Accessed February 25, 2021.

<https://nishitak.com/2017/09/30/night-watch/>.

Prokop, Vladimír. *Přehled světové literatury 20. století pro výuku literatury na středních školách*. O.K. – Soft, 2016.

Salter, James. "Foreword," In *The Young Lions*, written by Irwin Shaw, vii-ix. The University of Chicago Press, June 2000.

Shaw, Irwin. *The Young Lions*. The University of Chicago Press, 2000.

Sochrová, Marie. *Dějepis II. v kostce*. Fragment, 2008.

Soukal, Josef et al. *Literatura pro 4. ročník středních odborných škol*. SPN, Praha 2005.

Storey, Neil R., Fiona Kay. *Women in the Second World War*. Britain's Heritage, Amberley, 2019.

TROVE. "Heart of Hiroshima Wiped Out as by Giant Bulldozer." *The Advocate*, Burnie. August 9, 1945. 1. Retrieved September 17, 2013.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/68935692>.

Tindall, George B., David E. Shi. *Dějiny Spojených států Amerických*. Translated by Alena Faltýsková, Alena Komárková, Markéta Macháčková, Svatava Raková, Ivo Šmoldas, Ivan Vomáčka, Eva Zajíčková. *Lidové noviny*, 1996.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. "How did Public Opinion About Entering World War II Change Between 1939 and 1941?" *Americans and the Holocaust*. Accessed February 16, 2021.

<https://exhibitions.ushmm.org/americans-and-the-holocaust/us-public-opinion-world-war-II-1939-1941>.

Waters, Sarah. *The Night Watch*. Little, Brown Book Group, 2006.

Waters, Sarah. "Wolfkins and Togas: Lesbians and Gay Historical Fictions, 1870 to the present." Unpublished PhD thesis, Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London, 1995.

Withers, Harry C. "Summary of World War II." *Southwest Review* 31, no. 1 (FALL 1945): 101-107.

World at War. "Britain's Front Line Women in WW2." *World at War: WW2 History Online*. Published June 17, 2017.

<https://www.world-at-war.co.uk/?p=358>.