

## Reading and discussion notes *The Young Lions*, Chapters 4 - 15

A few general things to think about:

Why are all the war scenes in the first 250 pages “with” the Germans, not the Americans?

What is the role of prejudice (anti-Semitism, etc.) in the novel?

Who do you feel closest to? Who are you supposed to identify with?

### Chapter 4

Christian in France. One of the main interests for me in the novel is the gradual corruption by events and ideology of Christian Diestl.

In this chapter, C. is smart and human and easy to identify with. Interesting choice to have his be the first experience of war in the novel. It fits chronologically– the Germans were in the war far longer than the Americans– but it also forces us to see it at least a little from his point of view.

67– C. kills a man. He didn’t want to, did it for protection of his men. Intended to take prisoners.

69– C.’s pride is understandable.

73– The photographer creates German propaganda in Paris.

74– Nice bit of imagery: the Lieutenant’s salute

Wonderful descriptions of Paris.

### Chapter Five

Michael and Laura give a party This chapter I find painful with the ugliness of the relationship. To some extent, one of the projects of the novel is to see Michael move from corruption into something better. Watch what war does to him.

87– same moment in time as Germans are entering Paris.

99– The French sisters acting anti-Italian: they are rather gallant, one feels for them--and they are unreasonably cruel to Tony.

## **Chapter Six**

105 Noah gives a party.  
Noah falls in love

## **Chapter Seven**

131 Christian on Leave (Gretchen) Contrasts to Noah's sweet love and Michael's failing marriage.

## **Chapter Eight**

167 Noah can't volunteer

## **Chapter Nine**

173 Michael  
Buzz of his life, Hollywood, blah blah. Pretty misogynistic, IMHO.

## Chapter Ten

- 188 Christian in the Real war: ugly  
Still getting war only from the Germans' p.o.v.-- historically accurate  
Himmler has changed too-- no longer jovial, terrified of dying.
- 190 Lt. Hardenburg LOVES war.
- 191 odd little prediction for a future that never happened
- C. feeling intimate with lives of those he's about to kill-- again, about war, not Nazis. also 194
- 193 description of Hardenburg, full of disgust
- 194 long shot of scene
- 195 battle
- 196 violence and sex
- 198 leftovers of war...
- 199 laughing

## Chapter Eleven

- 200 Noah goes to meet Hope's father to ask for her hand in marriage.  
This is a positive chapter. Conflict, but also goodness of people.
- 204 Prices in 1940 in Vermont.
- 206 Heart of conflict is the place itself, the silent walk.
- 207 Great speech: "a test of his principles."

## **Chapter Twelve**

209 Michael at the draft board

## **Chapter Thirteen**

213 Noah gets drafted after all

## **Chapter Fourteen**

221 Return of Margaret/ Peggy from Chapter One

Michael's last day before the war

## **Chapter Fifteen**

“And they said...”  
Michael