

Suggested Questions for Discussion

1. Do you consider the German spy, Erika Lehmann, the protagonist or the antagonist of this story?
2. Is Erika's father, Karl Lehmann, a sympathetic figure?
3. Among the story's top three characters, Erika, Joe Mayer, or Charlie Pulaski, whom do you consider the most admirable character? Why?
4. Does this story have a moral? If so, what is it?
5. Do you feel the Adolf Hitler character in the story is not nefarious enough?
6. Is Erika's sometimes chameleon personality intentional on her part or is it a character flaw?
7. Chapters 23 and 24 deal with Joe Mayer and Howard Turnbull meeting and then dating Sarah Klein and Carol Weiss. When did you realize the German spy was Sarah and not the blond Carol?
8. Examine the role of suspense in the story from the standpoint of an Evansville native as compared to an out-of-state reader with no Evansville connection.
9. Erika and Axel Ryker both serve the Nazi cause. How do their reasons for doing so differ? How are they the same?
10. How does being at war affect the humanity of the characters?
11. How do Charlie Pulaski's dreams about John Dillinger affect his investigation at the shipyard?

Additional questions can be found at www.evpl.org



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"...unrelenting suspense.
Don't start this one on a work night."
—Ron Lennox, *Red River Literary Review*

INVITATION TO VALHALLA

Mike Whicker

Find out what happens when all of Southwestern Indiana Reads INVITATION TO VALHALLA

by Mike Whicker



Reading and
Growing Together
in Southwestern
Indiana

About the Program

One Book/One Community is a grassroots reading program to develop a community built around the shared experience of people reading and talking about the same book. Bringing people together to discuss ideas in books can play an important role in breaking down barriers between people, cultures, and economic and educational backgrounds.

The Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library is joining with the Evansville media, local schools and universities, bookstores, and businesses to promote a culture of reading in the Evansville community.

What can I do after I've read the book?

- Visit the One Book/One Community website at www.evpl.org/onebook
- Join a book discussion group.
- Use "Suggested Questions for Discussion" in the back of this booklet.
- Listen to special "One Book/One Community" programming on WNIN FM 88.3.
- Share the book with others.
- Attend the special author event on Thursday, November 11.

How can you participate?

Participation is free and open to the public – everyone is encouraged to join. You can call or stop by any Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library to borrow a copy of *Invitation to Valhalla*. Or you can purchase the book at 20% off list price at participating bookstores.

Book Discussion Dates:

Barnes & Noble	624 S. Green River Road Oct. 7 – 6:00 pm *
Central	200 SE MLK Jr. Blvd. Nov. 4 – 7:00 pm *
East	840 E. Chandler Ave. Nov. 2 – 6:30 pm *
McCollough	5115 Washington Ave. Sept. 29 – 4:00 pm *
North Park	750 North Park Dr. Sept. 3 – 6:30 pm *
Oaklyn	3001 Oaklyn Dr. Oct. 23 – 10:00 am *
Red Bank	120 S. Red Bank Rd. Oct. 26 – 6:30 pm Nov. 4 – 4:00 pm *
Stringtown	2100 Stringtown Rd. Oct. 5 – 6:30 pm *
West	2000 W. Franklin St. Oct. 19 – 6:30 pm *

Check other area libraries & book stores for dates.

* Indicates Author will be attending

About the Author

A native of Denver, Colorado, Mike Whicker now resides in Evansville, Indiana, where he teaches high school English and creative writing at FJ. Reitz High School as well as serving as an assistant football coach.

Whicker grew up hearing stories about Evansville shipyards from his mother, Bertha Gamprel Whicker, who was a "Rosie the Riveter." His father received a purple heart for injuries sustained in the D-Day Invasion on June 6, 1944.

Whicker has been an active member of the Evansville LST Committee since its inception and was instrumental in getting the LST325 to stop in Evansville in the summer of 2003. A noted authority on the Third Reich, Whicker occasionally accepts requests by colleges and universities to visit classrooms and speak on creative writing or the World War II era.

He is also the author of the young adult novel *Proper Suda* which deals with Ku Klux Klan activity in Evansville in the 1920's.

One Book/One Community Committee

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About *Invitation to Valhalla*

Invitation to Valhalla is the story of Erika Lehmann, who is codenamed Lorelei after the siren of Germanic lore. She is the English-speaking daughter of Hitler's old comrade and a member of the Führer's inner circle. She is beautiful, athletic, clever -- the epitome of Aryan womanhood -- and the Nazi's top spy. Sent to America, she'll stop at nothing to accomplish her mission, including masquerading as a Jew.

The year is 1942. At the U.S. Naval Shipyard in Evansville, Indiana, a Jewish metallurgist named Joseph Mayer is conducting top-secret experiments for the military. Life could not be better for Joe. He loves his job and he is dating a beautiful, young, Jewish woman...

Join Us

For a special Veterans Day event with author **Mike Whicker, LST-325 Captain Robert Jornlin, & the Browne Sisters.**

Thursday, November 11
7:30 PM

Victory Theatre
Admission is free and open to the public.