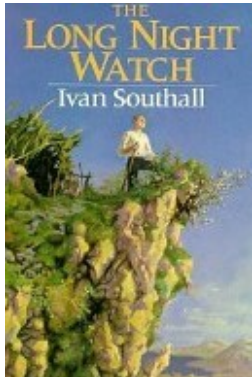


2003 Phoenix Award Winner

The Long Night Watch

By **Ivan Southall**

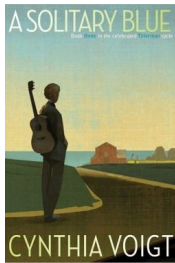
(Methuen, 1983)



In the middle of World War II, one hundred members of Operation S.W.O.R.D. (Society for World Order under Divine Rule) abandon Australia and await divine intervention on a remote island in the South Pacific. In an adolescent novel that combines the genres of speculative and historical fiction, Ivan Southall explores the appeal of apocalyptic discourse and the conditions of war. The mystery of the fate of the island inhabitants, like the mystery of the narrative itself, is never resolved. Demonstrating why watching for God might be preferable to dying in war, *The Long Night Watch* refuses to answer the many questions that it provokes. Instead Southall challenges readers to ask questions about the human be-

havior that leads to war, the disturbing parallels between Nazi language and the language of those who believe that Hitler is the devil, and the historical events that are taking place elsewhere on the dates so carefully noted in the chapter headings.

2003 Phoenix Honor Book



A Solitary Blue

by **Cynthia Voigt**

(Atheneum, 1983)