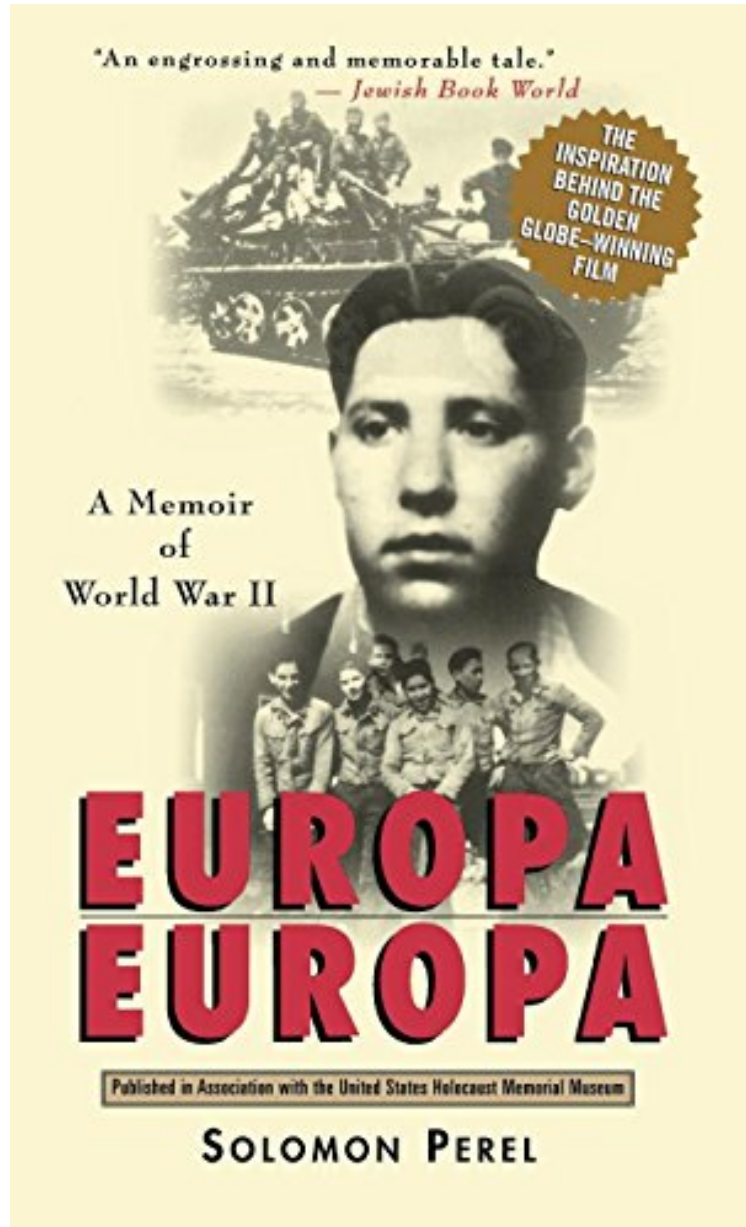


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Europa, Europa

Von Solomon Perel

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Von Solomon Perel : Europa, Europa before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Europa, Europa:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.

Different story of Jewish suffering in World War II
On Helpful Advice
Europa, Europa written by Solomon Perel is an amazing story of survival of young Jew in Nazi Germany who instead of hiding from those who have been relentlessly persecuted people of his faith, decided to do just the opposite - join them hiding behind different identity. The fact that today we read a book written by him confirms that Solomon in his incredible venture succeeded, while his adventures are in same time exciting and sad, emotional, though sometimes psychologically confusing for the reader, but the author himself. Solomon Perel was born in 1925 and grew up in a small German town Peine in which his parents came as refugees after the revolution in Russia. Solomon was extremely attached to his family, parents, his two brothers and sister, and although after moving into a new environment they didn't experience overly warm welcome by German Jews, ordinary Germans have embraced warmly and family lived a quiet civil life earning with a shoe store run by father. With the arrival of the Nazis to power, the situation for Jews literally begins to change day by day for the worse, and after several years of persecution, first in the form of psychological harassment and disruption of business, and soon after with the violence, the family decided to move to Poland. Although it would seem that in this way they managed to save the family peace and happiness it was only for a short time because on September 1st 1939 Germans attacked Poland and soon occupied Lodz, the city where the family settled down after exile from Germany. As the fate of the Jews in the new German Empire became evident, Solomon parents decided on an extremely difficult decision - to send Solomon and his brother to the East, to Russia to at least two of them avoid a tragedy ahead of family and other Jews. However, it seems that for the two brothers it was not meant to be saved in that way, having them separated by set of circumstances and each of them having to seek salvation in their own way. The story of that moment continues to follow only Solomon who, to save his life, decides on a bold, yet somewhat insane plan - he invents a new identity of Lithuanian ethnic German Josef Perjell in whose shoes he will first undergo a Eastern front in the German army, and after that, because he was too young, to be returned to Germany to become a member of the Hitler Youth, bred to serve the Führer and the German state. While the reader from page to page with the author once again goes through all of what happened to Solomon and Germany the war years, the emotional scenes of the author's gradual doubling of personality to Josef, member of the German youth elite who is respected by his colleagues and teachers, as well as hidden Jew who asks himself what happened to his family, who is tortured by remorse and who wonders whether rescuing his own life is enough reason to hide all that you are, becomes the more intense... In some countries original title of Solomon Perel book 'Europa, Europa' was translated in a way that is sure to attract a wider audience, given that the motive of Solomon's joining to the Hitler Youth is central motif of this incredible story in which a young Jew due to combination of circumstances, insane courage, and a little luck, manages to survive the war in a place where it is impossible to imagine that a Jew could survive one day in Nazi Germany. The uniqueness of this book is that in several places the author himself admits that during his many years of turning over was not anymore sure who he really is - a Jew imprisoned in the body of a German or a German who, despite knowing that he is not that, asks whether because of his actions he deserves to be Jew any more. At times, Solomon falls into fully hopelessness, the decision to try to see his parents in the ghetto risks his disclosure to the limit, and then he is forced to move on again and again with the memory of his mother who sad to him and his brother when they were leaving that they must escape, they have to live on because that was the reason why their parents brought them into the world. The novel is written in a way that makes it clear how Solomon Perel wrote it, the book is not divided into chapters but its action is presented in one part starting from the author's birth to his leaving to Israel after World War II. But despite it, this it is a very fascinating work that shows the story of one boy survival through the most difficult period of human history, especially because the main character is not the typical hero, but a character to who many things can be reproached. However, the reader will surely ask her/himself the question of whether she/he would act like him if they found themselves in Solomon's situation. Therefore, the novel Europa, Europa is one different story about Jewish suffering in World War II, devoid of ornate style and great life lessons, while at the same time Solomon Perel has succeeded to show how far one can go in order to survive. In addition to full recommendation for reading this interesting book that examines issues of conscience and identity, to those who will enjoy the novel the information will be useful that based on it the movie adaptation was made in 1990 bearing the same name. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Awesome. A must for anyone who has struggled in their life. Von jcbalto@aol.com Perel's story is amazing and will capture the reader from the very first page. Stripped of the dramatized scenes invented for the movie of the same name, "Europa, Europa" is a tower of strength and encouragement on its own. It is a must read for anyone who struggled in their life. Perel's account of his harrowing survival as a Jew deep in the Nazi machine of racial hatred is honest and sincere and makes no attempts to soften the truth or the pain of his situation. Perel led a double life to honor his parents and family and to keep their spirits alive through his own survival. He was inspired continually by the demand of his mother, "You must stay alive!" Perel's story telling is simple and unclouded. His doesn't need any fancy literary genre to accurately relate his compelling story. The plain, simple facts of his story are compelling enough on their own. Read "Europa, Europa." You will not be able to get the story out of your mind. It will touch your life in a positive way and 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An Amazing Saga of Duplicitous Existence
Von Bluerigged
Solomon Perel's story is unique. His acceptance by the Nazis as an "ethnic German" leads to a double existence - a jingoistic Hitler Youth on the outside, and a pensive

tortured Jew on the inside. It is this battle between "Jupp" and "Solly" that captures the reader; and it is quite clear that even Mr. Perel himself has yet to integrate these two contradicting personalities. Europa, Europa admirably describes the experiences of Solly Perel, and continually amazes with its remarkable developments and stunning coincidences. In the end, the story best illustrates the irrationality of racial hatred. While his Nazi acquaintances held Jupp in great esteem, the same individuals would have surely killed Solly without much thought

KurzbeschreibungThe Inspiration Behind The Golden Globe-Winning Film "An engrossing and memorable tale." - Jewish Book World "The sheer emotion of telling the tale is palpable. The whole is moving, and strange beyond belief." -The Times (London) International acclaim for Solomon Perel's Europa Europa The wrenching memoir of a young man who survived the Holocaust by concealing his Jewish identity and finding unexpected refuge as a member of the Hitler Youth. "It is a Holocaust memoir that is moving, straightforward, and quite completely bizarre, unsettling in all kinds of assumptions about identity, responsibility, and guilt." -Glasgow Herald "Perel bares his soul to readers in this fascinating, unusual personal narrative of the Holocaust." -Book Report "Many of the experiences of Holocaust survivors are incredible. None is more incredible than the story of a Jewish boy, Solomon Perel, who escaped from Germany to Russia, served with the Wehrmacht in Russia, was adopted by his commanding officer, and transferred to an elite Hitler Youth school." -London Jewish News "A most remarkable story . . . extraordinary." -The Australian "This book will move human hearts." -Berliner Morgenpost.de Solomon Perel's may be one of the strangest wartime memoirs ever committed to print. At the outbreak of World War II Perel, a young Polish Jew, was interned in a Soviet orphanage. Captured by Wehrmacht soldiers, Perel, fluent in Russian and German, passed himself off as an ethnic German and was adopted by the Nazi unit to act as a translator--and as something of a mascot. Sent to Berlin to an all-male military school, Perel managed against all odds to keep his secret (after the war, he revealed his true identity to his disbelieving comrades-in-arms); in the meantime, his family perished. Now available for the first time in English translation, the full book revels in a sharp sense of irony and an ever-unfolding abundance of improbable episodes..com Solomon Perel's may be one of the strangest wartime memoirs ever committed to print. At the outbreak of World War II Perel, a young Polish Jew, was interned in a Soviet orphanage. Captured by Wehrmacht soldiers, Perel, fluent in Russian and German, passed himself off as an ethnic German and was adopted by the Nazi unit to act as a translator--and as something of a mascot. Sent to Berlin to an all-male military school, Perel managed against all odds to keep his secret (after the war, he revealed his true identity to his disbelieving comrades-in-arms); in the meantime, his family perished. Now available for the first time in English translation, the full book revels in a sharp sense of irony and an ever-unfolding abundance of improbable episodes.