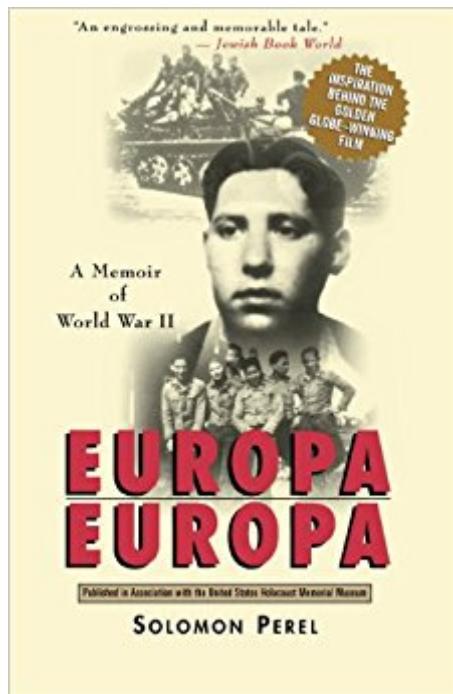


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# Europa, Europa



## Synopsis

The 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

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## Customer Reviews

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. --This text refers to the Digital edition.

In this inspiration for the 1990 Golden Globe-winning film, *Europa, Europa*, appearing now in English translation, Perel details his remarkable story of survival as a Jewish boy during World War II. While fleeing eastward from German-occupied Poland, he fell into German hands. Amazingly, he managed to convince his captors that he, too, was German, though orphaned. The Germans accepted him into their ranks and sent him to an elite training school for the Hitler Youth until war's end. Though his story offers a vastly different view of the war, Perel spends less time on details of the Nazi regime and instead focuses on his fear of detection. The resulting repetition can make for disappointing reading. Perel's story is indeed incredible, but it is not that well written. Recommended only for large public libraries or Holocaust collections. ?Jill Jaracz, Chicago, Ill. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Digital edition.

Having caught the movie that was based on this book, I tracked down this English version of Solomon Perel's autobiography. The book was superb, grabbed my interest & didn't let go til the end. Including several pictures, the true story differs slightly from the movie version, but both are worthwhile. Loved Sololmon's writing style--easy to feel empathy for his unusual situation.

There are all kinds of stories that came out of World War II, this one almost sounds like it is made up. I believe it is true, but I had to read the book twice so I could grasp it all. Solomon Perel was born a German Jew in the town of Peine. After the Nazi take over in Germany, Solomon and his family moved to Lodz, Poland. They managed quite well there until September 1, 1939 when Germany attacked Poland. It was decided that Solomon and his older brother Isaac would try to escape to Russia. They succeeded in fleeing to Russia and Solomon was put into a Russian orphanage. His older brother went on to the city of Vilna. Solomon became a Russian school boy for the next few years and did very well. In June 1941, Germany attacked Russia and Solomon was again a refugee. He and some school friends ended up in the middle of the fighting, everyone ran off a different way and Solomon was alone. He ended up being captured by the Germans and was able to pass himself off as an ethnic German. He was accepted as a young fighter and was more or less adopted as a mascot by the Germans. Amazingly enough, the camp commander took a liking

to young Solomon and offered to adopt him. In an instant he became Josef Von Munchow. Because of his young age he was sent back to Germany to go to school and become one of the Hitler Youth. Imagine the fear of constantly trying to hide who he really was, I don't know how he did it. His strong will to live kept him going while living a lie and almost becoming another person. I have the feeling Solomon never could really forgive him self for living with the enemy while most of his family perished. A great book and an unbelievable story.

My father was in a very similar situation. I know bits and pieces of the story, but he talks very little about it since it is much too painful for him. Though the situations aren't identical, Perel's story gave me some insight into what my father may have experienced and why he is who he is. I am grateful that Mr. Perel had the strength and courage to put his journey into words and to put the words onto paper. For every book that is written to describe the Holocaust, there are probably thousands of untold stories - either because the person didn't make it through the ordeal or because it is too painful to live through again.

Bought for Humanities class and my Granddaughter loves reading the language and being a true story has many twist and turns beating the impossible. A must read!

The amazing story of Solomon Perel, who survived the Nazi horrors by hiding "in plain sight" (despite his circumcision) and perhaps, he might say, because he had a guardian angel. I first learned about his life from the movie of the same name, and decided to get this along with the German version (Ich war Hitlerjunge Solomon) and read both together. A great way to improve German reading skills.

incredible almost unbelievable story! But inspiring for its truth - loved the insight into the author's conflicting emotions - one really gets to see into the heart of this man, this one of so many but not nearly enough truly heroic survivors! Loved it.

Mr. Perel's moving memoir proves that suffering comes in many forms. His suffering was real though very different from that experienced in the camps. He did what he had to do to live. The book offers a unique perspective on the Nazi mentality. Mr. Perel's poignant descriptions of the pride and the shame of his survival touch the heart. As he intends I believe they will make their contribution to holding back--at least for a time--the tide of evil as it rises again.

A true story about a Jewish boy captured by the Nazis in 1941. He managed to convince them he was German and they adopted him as their mascot. The Commander of the Division wanted to adopt him and planned to take him to his home after Germany won the war. He was sent to the Nazi Youth School to be schooled to become a Hitler Youth. Fortunately, the war was lost to Germany in 1945 and he was liberated. Very compelling.

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