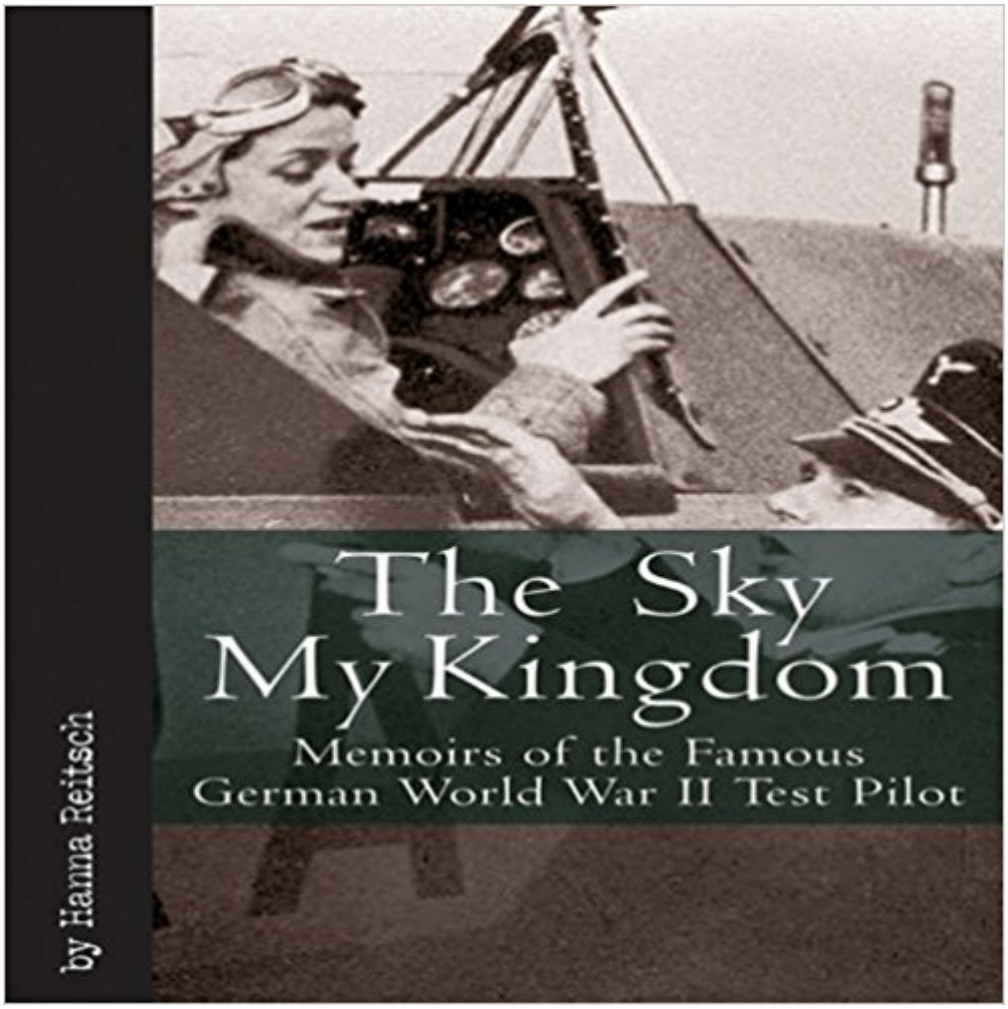
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The Sky My Kingdom: Memoirs Of The Famous German World War II Test Pilot (Vintage Aviation Series)



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Synopsis

The Sky My Kingdom is the fascinating autobiography of the famous World War test pilot - Hanna Reitsch (March 29, 1912 - August 24, 1979). As the war progressed, Reitsch was invited to fly many of Germany's latest (and increasingly desperate) designs, including the rocket-propelled Messerschmitt Me 163 Komet, and several larger bombers on which she tested various mechanisms for cutting barrage balloon cables. After crashing on her fifth Me 163 flight, she was badly injured but insisted on writing her report before falling unconscious and spending five months in hospital. Eventually she became Adolf Hitler's favorite pilot. Reitsch was one of only two women awarded the Iron Cross First Class during World War II, and the only woman awarded the Luftwaffe Combined Pilot and Observer Badge with Diamonds. She survived many accidents and was badly injured several times. In the last days of the war Reitsch was asked to fly her companion, Colonel-General Robert Ritter von Greim, into Berlin to meet with Hitler. The city was already surrounded by Red Army troops who had made significant progress into the downtown area when they arrived on the 27th April, landing on a city street, and traveled to the FÃƒÂ hrerbunker. The aircraft she used was the justly famous Fieseler Storch already well known for the exploit that rescued Mussolini, only adding to the legend of both Reitsch and that aircraft. She is said to have overheard Hitler laying out plans for Nazi commanders to join together in mass suicide when it was obvious that the war was over. She also hoped to fly out propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels' six children, who had been staying in the bunker since April 22 with their parents, but neither Joseph nor Magda Goebbels would allow it. She escaped Berlin on 29th April by flying out through heavy Russian anti-aircraft fire. She was a devoted and idealistic Nazi, who adored Adolf Hitler and refused to believe the reports of concentration camps and torture. Not until much later would she say that she had been "disgusted" by what she witnessed in the Third Reich. She was held for 18 months by the American military after the war, she was interrogated and subsequently released. After the war German citizens were forbidden from flying, except, after a few years, in gliders. In 1952 Reitsch won third place in the world gliding championship in Spain (and was the only woman who competed). She continued to break records including the women's altitude record (6848 meters) and became German champion in 1955.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Â¦detailed yet highly readable memoir...reflecting as it does her sheer exuberance in the joys of flying as well as providing insight into the plans of the Luftwaffe during the war. (WWII History, Winter 2009)..an interesting look at the life of an accomplished pilot, test pilot, and witness of wartime Germany (Cybermodeler.com)this makes it all the highest ranking minus 1 for the fact that she was flying for the wrong side, plus yet 1 to add on, because we need to forget about war. We have to go forward with the life we have on this globe and with our eastern neighbours and another 6 milliard othersÃ¢â ¬Â¦ makes it still again a score of 5!. Indispensable for your bedside cabinet! (Aviation Book Reviews)

Originally a medical student, Reitsch left school in order to take up aviation, and held the world gliding record for women. She was invited to fly many of Germany’s lastest and increasingly desperate designs, and came to earn the respect and affection of Hitler. She was one of only two women awarded the Iron Cross First Class during WWII.She continued to break records including the women’s altitude record (6848 meters) and became German Champion in 1955.

Great read about a legendary pilot. I bought the hardback on years ago, but packed it away during a move and have not been able to get to it since. Matchbook has allowed me to get the Kindle version (at a big price reduction) in order to finish the read. Highly recommended!

I enjoyed this book. The first I heard of Hanna Reitsch was an article in the "Air Classics" February 1979 edition and her deeds are discussed(some not too complimentary) in The History Channel’s "No Surrender" DVDs on Japanese and German Kamikazes Getting her side of the stories provides

balance. A remarkable and determined woman (all 5’ 1’’ of her!!!)

Another good book written by this person from start to finish. The reader get a clear picture of her love for flying and the many aircraft she flew as a test pilot for the german air force in WW2. The contact between her and Hitler is also interesting in their meetings. The most interesting is her flying into berlin at the last days of the war.

Spellbinding story of a truly amazing, exceptional woman!! You will not be able to put it down. Inspiring story, sad that there are so few people of her caliber living in the world today. Buy it, read it, then re-read it later!

An interesting story of Hannah Reitsch’ life in flying and in pre and wartime Germany. I found it well worth reading. She was one of the best pilots of her time, and had contact with many of the key Nazi figures in the war. It would be interesting to know her personal political views, but she carefully avoids any political tenor to her writing.

Very little technical details

A fascinating life. Alas, not sure if writing isn’t her strong suit or it just didn’t translate into English well. Anyway, a quick afternoon’s read, don’t miss it.

I found it insightful to hear what is was like prior to, during and after WWII from a person in Germany. So many books are from the American or Allied perspective.Hanna was a feminist before her time. I would like to learn more about her.

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