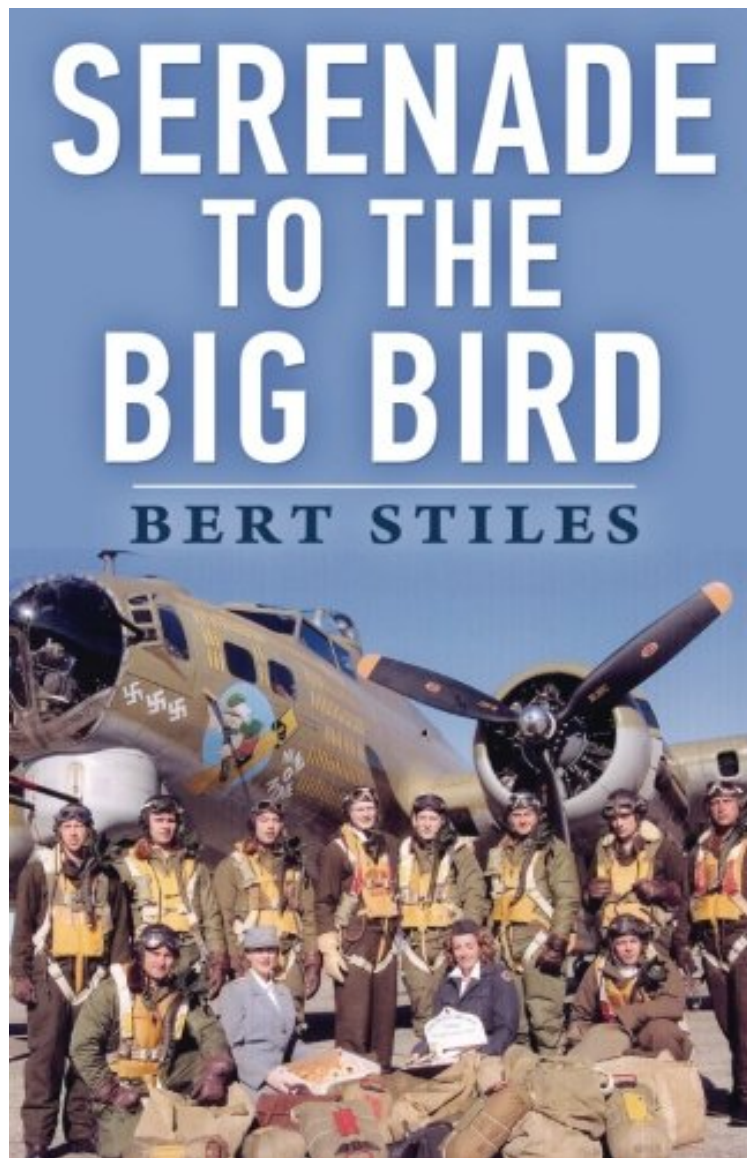


[Ebook pdf] Serenade to the Big Bird: A Young Flier's Moving Memoir of the Second World War (Uncommon Valor)

Serenade to the Big Bird: A Young Flier's Moving Memoir of the Second World War (Uncommon Valor)

Bert Stiles

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Bert Stiles : Serenade to the Big Bird: A Young Flier's Moving Memoir of the Second World War (Uncommon Valor) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Serenade to the Big Bird: A Young Flier's Moving Memoir of the Second World War (Uncommon Valor):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Amazing book
By KosieZ
What an amazing book!! It is about young Bert Stiles who is a co-pilot in a B-17 in the ETO. He goes into some detail about the missions that they flew, but it is more just a story of a young man during the war, with all his thoughts and dreams put onto paper. The story is was written by him during his war service and he did not survive to see it published. It is very sad to read all his thoughts and dreams about his life after the war was finished, and knowing that he didn't survive and would not chase those dreams. The way he saw things was ahead of his times and he would probably have been someone who could have left a big mark on this world if he survived. Always sad to think that so many bright young men of all nations on both sides had to make the ultimate sacrifice. One of the best books I have read!!
4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Read this book!!
By Jake's buddy
Simply the best book I have read. Very telling, moving, thought provoking, book. One can feel the emotions of the young men who faced death in the sky every time they took to the sky. If you have any interest in true stories from WWII, this book is highly recommended.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Interesting first person narrative
By Robert Johnston
Serenade to the Big Bird has been on my list of first person narratives to read for some time. My review is framed from within reading the collection of first person war narrative greats. Combat narratives that I compare Serenade to the Big Bird with range widely in the quality of work but the best experiential readings come from the images the reader captures from the greats like Voices from the Pacific, EB Sledge's With the Old Breed, or Ambrose Bierce's haunting collection from the Civil War. Page turning, addictive, all-nighter reads deliver the best images. Serenade to the Big Bird was a pick-it-up-where-you-left off sort of narrative. It's quite good but falls short of the compelling beat to drive the reader straight through.

Serenade to the Big Bird, first published in the United States in 1952, recounts author Bert Stiles' experiences as an Army Air Force pilot in the European theater of World War Two. Stiles enlisted in the Air Force almost immediately after Pearl Harbor, and served as a Second Lieutenant in the 401st Bomb Squadron, 91st Bomb Group, and later in the 505th Fighter Squadron, 339th Fighter Group. Stiles expressed doubts about the conflict, stating that "we aren't solving anything with this war." However, he realized "there is a time when every man must fight." After completing a tour of duty (thirty-five missions) in B-17 bombers, Stiles transferred to a fighter squadron where he flew the P-51 Mustang. Sadly, four months later, on November 26, 1944, he was killed in action while on an escort mission to Hanover, Germany. Stiles was 23 at the time of his death. Due to the efforts of his mother, Serenade to the Big Bird was first published in England in 1947 and in the United States in 1952. The book, long-considered one of the masterpieces of World War Two writing, has remained popular due to its description of the tragedy of war, and specifically, the sensitive portrayal of life and war by such a young, gifted writer.