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The Commandant: An Account by the First Commanding Officer of Auschwitz

Rudolf Hoess

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THE RUDOLPH HOESS TEXT EDITED BY JÜRIG AMANN AND INTRODUCED BY IAN BURUMA

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Rudolf Hoess : The Commandant: An Account by the First Commanding Officer of Auschwitz before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Commandant: An Account by the First Commanding Officer of Auschwitz:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. As if to confirm Hanna Arendt. By Seneca Rudolf Hoess, the commander of the Auschwitz concentration camp, was probably responsible for more deaths than any other person in

history. He was neither very well educated nor a very good writer; reading him, one should not expect either fanfare or sentimentality. Like other Nazis who wrote their memoirs, the man may have hated Jews more than he cares to admit. On the whole, though, he confirms Hanna Arendt's thesis concerning the banality of evil. I would have given the book four stars. But how does one "like" a book by such a person? 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a chilling account of Auschwitz in the Commandant's ...By WayneThis is a chilling account of Auschwitz in the Commandant's own words. His rather lengthy and self-serving memoirs that he wrote while awaiting execution have been masterfully edited down into this very readable and engaging little book. It provides unique insights into the mind of a senior Nazi leader who led the largest death camp in the world. I could not put it down. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Horrific and riveting. By Steven DuretteA dive inside the mind of the man tasked with wholesale slaughter. Written with a tragic, yet matter of fact and unapologetic tone- this work, though short will leave a mark upon the reader's psyche.

Rudolf Hoess was the notorious Commandant of Auschwitz. Imprisoned and awaiting execution after the war, Hoess wrote a long memoir, a self-serving account of his life and approaches to management. The amoral sensibility Hoess displayed regarding all that went on in the charnal factory where the industrialization of death was practiced--where probably 3 million people were literally worked to death, shot or quickly gassed--is still almost beyond belief today. Jurg Amann has taken Hoess' text and produced a work imaginatively new, always using Hoess' own words; The Commandant is a book Hoess would certainly not have approved--an excruciating insight into Hitler's Final Solution and the nature of evil itself through the prism of the Nazis' totalitarian system, one Hoess and so many others felt no requirement to question. Ian Buruma's introduction sets this frightening work within a both moral and historical context.