



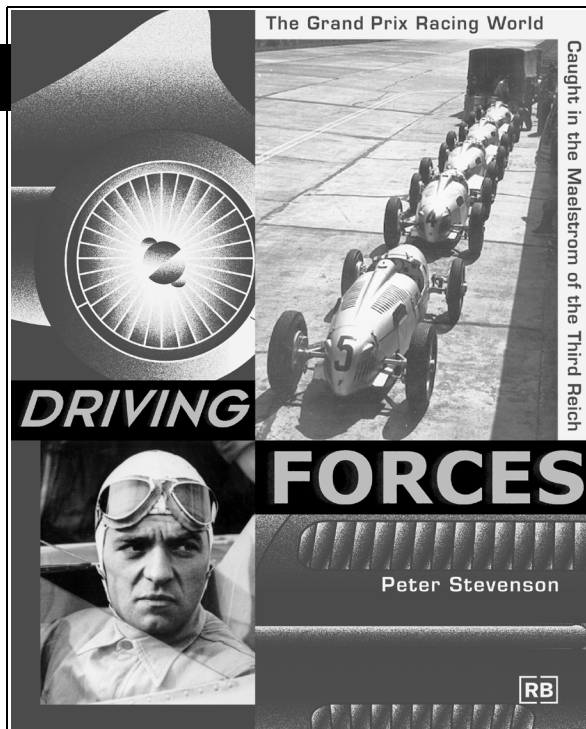
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Driving Forces

The Grand Prix Racing World Caught in the Maelstrom of the Third Reich

by Peter Stevenson

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"The Goddess of Speed," a special gift from Hitler to the winner of the German Grand Prix . . . It's not hard to guess just from facial expressions who won the Goddess and who's so mad he's going to stick a lighted cigarette in her mouth at the presentation ceremonies. From left at back, Neubauer beaming, von Brauchitsch not paying attention, Rosemeyer fuming, and Caracciola grinning like an art-nouveau satyr.

from *Driving Forces*, page 152

Driving Forces by Peter Stevenson tells the human story of the men, their women, and their machines that made the German dominance of Grand Prix racing in the 1930's possible. It is the classic story of daring individuals facing the ultimate challenge both physically and morally as these racing drivers drove under the Nazi swastika, but for themselves.

Driving Forces focuses on the lives of two of the world's greatest racing drivers: Rudolph ("Rudi" the "Rain Master") Caracciola and Bernd Rosemeyer. Peter Stevenson also tells the story of the rivalry between Mercedes Benz and Auto Union, led by the brilliant designs of Dr. Porsche, for the Grand Prix championship of Germany and the world.

But this is not merely a story about race cars. It is primarily a tale of individual courage—the drivers and their wives and lovers who faced death on and off the race course, for this was a time in Europe when fascism was on the rise sweeping up a whole continent and then the whole world. These racing drivers and their loved ones dealt with the risks of racing such powerful machines and of dealing with one of history's most terrifying dictators—Adolf Hitler. That they survived either of these challenges is a testament to their courage and fortitude—some, however, did not. **Driving Forces** is the story of those challenges, those successes, and those losses—it is a human story, brilliantly told against the exciting background of international Grand Prix racing and the growing maelstrom of the Third Reich.



When the German Giants took to the track, crowds saw a kind of fierceness in racing they'd never experienced before. Or possibly since. Eyewitnesses say that later forms of Grand-Prix competition look like kid's play compared with the utter abandon of these bellowing beast, and the films of the races that survive back up this notion.

from *Driving Forces*, page 124

About the author

Peter Stevenson has written vintage motoring features for national magazines including *Road & Track* as well as in his book **The Greatest Days Of Racing** with an introduction by Grand Prix champion Phil Hill. Stevenson also did volunteer work at the Briggs Cunningham Automotive Museum where he was able to talk with some of the visiting racing greats like Juan Fangio, Sterling Moss, Reid Railton, and Innes Ireland, as well as interview one of the characters in **Driving Forces**, Rene Dreyfus in New York. Stevenson lives with his wife Susie in California where he continues to hand build replicas of his favorite historic cars. .

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