

# Readers Opinions

## **Amazon Customer**

This book was a fascinating story of one woman's life behind the Iron Curtain and her forbidden love of an American man. It was an eye-opening look at the complexities of leaving her life as she knew it and stepping out to embrace the unknown. Amazon Customer

## **Pkb**

I recently met Dorothe and Bill. In our conversations, she mentioned that she was an author. When she described her novel I couldn't wait to purchase it. I was not disappointed!! It truly was a story of life and love and once I started reading it I couldn't put it down. I can't wait to read her sequel.

## **Sarah I Kevin**

I fully enjoyed this book and came away with a much deeper understanding of what it meant to love behind the Iron Curtain. The nail-biting suspense of will she make it out was told incredibly well.

## **Linda Lucetti**

This is not only a tender love story but also a look behind the scenes of life in East Germany post-WW II. In this time of fragile democracies around the world, the content is enlightening and thought-provoking.

## **Carol Y.**

The Risk is a compelling story of one woman's experience of life in East Germany before reunification. I found the juxtaposition of the benefits afforded the citizens while living within the confines of a police state thought provoking. The story built to a page turner as the couple from opposite sides of the Iron Curtain worked through seemingly never-ending obstacles to achieve a life together. After reading this book, I had the good fortune to attend a gathering with the author. Based on the true story of her experience, she offered the opportunity to hear more of her story and answer questions we all had after reading the book. The Risk is a recent translation of Dorothe's book originally written in German. She attended readings extensively in Germany when it was first published, and I believe she would be available to do the same here in the U.S.

## **Linda T.**

Many of us can remember the Berlin Wall. Built in the 1960s, its purpose was not to keep immigrants out, but to keep East Berliners and East Germans in the Russian sector. Freedom did not exist for East Berliners. Every move required government permission. Corrupt officials required payoffs, and neighbors betrayed friends to win favor. The Wall, and the entire border, became a symbol of an autocratic government. "The Risk," by Dorothe Kress, is a first-person true account of her own struggle to marry the American man she loved and to navigate the complex government regulations which were intended to prevent her leaving with him. Spies were everywhere, feeding

information, true or false, to government officials, to curry favor for themselves. Rules, fees, and requirements changed from day to day. Those who helped her were harassed. It is a gripping story, and sheds light on what real oppression could again evolve in a government that cares more about its cronies and fellow thugs than about the citizens.

### **Roberta Frantti**

I loved it and can't wait for the next book about the life-changing move to the US.

### **Lois**

Truly enjoyed this true-life drama and love story. I couldn't put it down and once finished I longed to know what happened next - waiting for that book to be published.

### **Blizzkin**

I thoroughly enjoyed this story, fictionalized from the author's life, of her calm easy life in East Germany that gets disrupted by falling in love with an American. As their relationship builds, so does the tension and drama, keeping me glued to the pages! The filed reports at the Stasi are shocking, but her love for her home country still shines. A very enjoyable read!

### **Pat**

The author and her husband are my neighbors and as soon as Dorothe's novel was available I purchased a copy. I couldn't put it down. What a beautiful love story and I learn so much about life in East Germany behind the Iron Curtain. It is a very easy read but also opens your eyes to a life most Americans like myself knew existed. I highly recommend the book.

### **June Paquette**

I would describe this book to someone as a powerful love story as well as a personal historical insight into life behind the Iron Curtain. I could feel the fear, anger, and uncertainty in dealing with the realities of life in East Berlin. I could also feel the enduring love between the author and her husband to have endured and persisted through the ordeal.

### **Terri Cain**

Very well written. I had no idea what happened behind the Iron Curtain. I couldn't put it down. I highly recommend it.

### **Smitty**

Well written. Difficult to put down. Gave me a completely new understanding of living under socialist rule behind the iron curtain. I would definitely recommend this book.

### **Judie Panneton**

The Risk is a real page turner. The story takes the reader behind the Iron Curtain where freedom is not a part of everyday life and love has its price. Who is spying on you for the government and will the couple in love be able to go to America as they hope? Read it and find out.

## **Joan M. Griffin**

I attended a breathtakingly interesting talk by author Dorothe Kress a few months ago, where she told us her life story, her love story. This novel is based on that true story of her forbidden love with an American in the old East Germany where she grew up. Brilliantly suspenseful, this book is captivating and emotional and victorious. I love books about strong women.

## **Jesse**

I would recommend this book to everyone. I'm 66 years old and had no idea what life was like behind the iron curtain. I'm so proud of the author for her courage and her perseverance.

## **Paula H**

Page turner. No wasted words.

## **EM**

This book is well written on so many levels. It provides a realistic view of living under communist rule in East Germany and a heartwarming tale of love. I've loaned this book to a number of friends, all of whom have raved about it and insisted that they keep it for a bit longer to pass it on to a friend. I'm having trouble getting it back!

## **Rita J Rutledge**

Meeting Dorothy in the community where I live, and then getting to read her book was a true pleasure. It was hard to put down, learned so much about life behind the iron curtain. I have had the privilege of asking her to speak in our community about her book. Can't wait to be able to ask the questions that came to my mind during every chapter of her intriguing story.

## **R T v. Koch**

What a story! Reading about life in the former GDR was eye opening. Difficult and yet full of small joys. However, the oppressiveness by the government caused so much suffering in the population and specifically to Kristina. I also liked the juxtaposition of Bill's life and Kristina's life. Loved the happy ending.

## **r.s.**

Captivating narrative set during a complex time in history. Truly inspiring to read how someone can ultimately triumph over such difficult circumstances. Highly recommend.

## **Daya From Japan**

When I first got to know the German version of this book, I thought it was a pity that it would only reach a limited (i.e. German speaking) audience. Now that the English version has become available, I really think "The Risk" should be required reading for anyone interested in recent German history. Behind the East-West love story, there are deep insights into the totalitarian tactics of the old East German regime that only someone who experienced them first-hand could write about. The novel's autobiographical elements make it even more touching and I found I couldn't put the

book down until I had reached the conclusion. In fact, it is so gripping that I kept thinking it should be turned into a movie! And I hope it will also become available as an e-book. Extraordinarily well done, Dorothe!