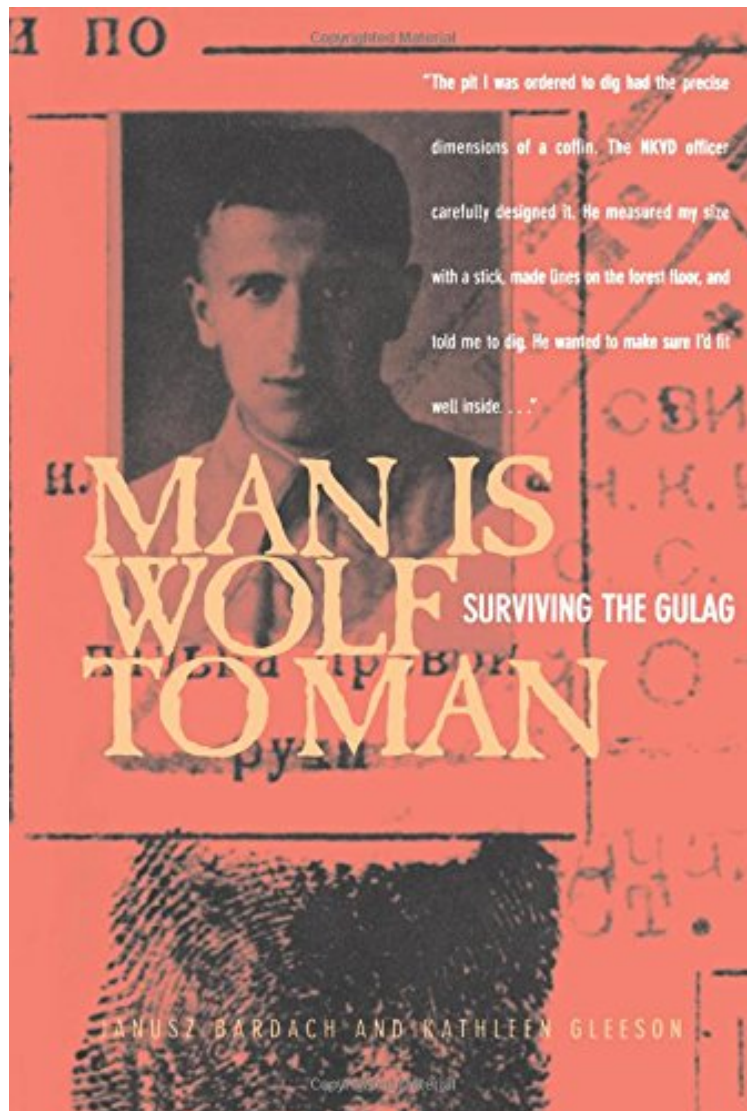


[Ebook free] Man Is Wolf to Man: Surviving the Gulag

## Man Is Wolf to Man: Surviving the Gulag

Janusz Bardach, Kathleen Gleeson  
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**Janusz Bardach, Kathleen Gleeson : Man Is Wolf to Man: Surviving the Gulag** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Man Is Wolf to Man: Surviving the Gulag:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is one of the best, most endearing books I have ever had the pleasure and the blessing to read! By Sandra H. Phillips What a very gifted author this wonderful Jewish man was... Truly one of God's Chosen people... he tried so very hard to still stay nice in a den of iniquity if there ever was one.. he was numerous times half killed by the merciless satanic communists while unjustly sent 14,000 miles from his home as a young man, to Siberia, no man's land... this book will truly hold your interest, I'm not much of a reviewer,

but just wanted to assure my fellow book lovers, this is a KEEPER!!!! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Amazing Man. Amazing Book. By Dave I thought I knew Janusz, I met him in Iowa City. He got my Mom to do Luksusowa Vodka "shooters" when the hardest stuff she ever drank was a glass of wine. They then proceeded to have a conversation in Ukrainian. He was one of the most positive souls I have ever met. He did cleft palate surgeries for kids all over the world. I remember being in his kitchen with my brother when he walked in proclaiming that "Phyllis dropped the ball" by leaving the Lukisuowa out of the freezer. He then made us do shooters. as well. His wife Phyllis was an educator of the deaf and also an amazing soul. This book tells the story of how low the world can take you and how high someone can climb. Inspirational. This book made me really know him. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Janusz Bardach's Story of Survival By Customer This book kept my attention for all of its 400+ pages and it is one of the best I've read in recent memory. The account of Janusz Bardach is equal parts adventure and horror. The brutality of Communism is on display in graphic detail as Janusz transforms from a Communist idealist to a broken realist when exposed to the truth of Communism over its theoretical ideals. This book has love, prison escapes, political and social philosophy, extreme brutality, suffering, and even black market reindeer blood (seriously). If you love WWII history, adventure, and real life stories of survival, please pick this book up. Memorable Points:- the realization of how quickly educated, hard working, honest families were massacred by both the Nazis and the Soviets.- the difference between political theory and reality and the importance of understanding how our ideas actually play out in the real world.- the escape from the prison transport.- the extreme use of fear as a weapon in Communist society.- the attack on female prisoners on the ship to Kolyma stuck with me due to the brutality.- the commutation of Janusz's death sentence from a "chance" encounter with an officer who knew his family.- the missed opportunity to escape after turning over the tank.- the strained relationship between Janusz and his brother Julek.- Janusz's return to Wlodzimierz-Wolynski after his release.- the revelation of his family's fate. The book tells it swiftly and without much fanfare. I think it translated the pain Janusz must've felt very explicitly.

FROM THE BOOK:"The pit I was ordered to dig had the precise dimensions of a casket. The NKVD officer carefully designed it. He measured my size with a stick, made lines on the forest floor, and told me to dig. He wanted to make sure I'd fit well inside." In 1941 Janusz Bardach's death sentence was commuted to ten years' hard labor and he was sent to Kolyma, the harshest, coldest, and most deadly prison in Joseph Stalin's labor camp system in Siberia. The only English-language memoir since the fall of communism to chronicle the atrocities committed during the Stalinist regime, Bardach's gripping testimony explores the darkest corners of the human condition at the same time that it documents the tyranny of Stalin's reign, equal only to that of Hitler. With breathtaking immediacy, a riveting eye for detail, and a humanity that permeates the events and landscapes he describes, Bardach recounts the extraordinary story of this nearly inconceivable world. The story begins with the Nazi occupation when Bardach, a young Polish Jew inspired by Soviet Communism, crosses the border of Poland to join the ranks of the Red Army. His ideals are quickly shattered when he is arrested, court-martialed, and sentenced to death. How Bardach survives an endless barrage of brutality from a near-fatal beating to the harsh conditions and slow starvation of the gulag existence is a testament to human endurance under the most oppressive circumstances. Besides being of great historical significance, Bardach's narrative is a celebration of life and a vital affirmation of what it means to be human.

.com In 1941, accidentally rolling a Soviet tank while fording a river was considered a death offense by the Red Army. Unfortunately for young Janusz Bardach, he committed just such an error; lucky for him that an old acquaintance from his hometown in Poland had enough rank and influence to commute the court-martial penalty from death to 10 years hard labor in Siberia. For the next four years, Bardach endured hellish conditions in various labor camps--first a logging camp, then a gold mine in the frozen north. Frigid temperatures, inadequate food and clothing combined with physical and spiritual malaise to bring prisoners first to the edge of despair and then to the brink of suicide. Bardach survived by turning his mind off, by refusing to remember happier times or to anticipate the future. He became, simply, a beast of burden, shuffling through the hours of his slavery until he could fall into the brief oblivion of sleep. Ironically, it was a near brush with death that proved to be Bardach's salvation. After surviving an explosion, he was sent to a prison hospital where he managed to talk his way into a job as a medical assistant. There he gained both a new lease on life and a future profession. Released from his sentence early, in 1945, Bardach went on to become a surgeon. His memoir, *Man Is Wolf to Man*, is more than just an account of his sufferings in a Russian labor camp; it is also a meditation on the will to survive in the face of hopelessness, the occasional kindnesses of strangers in unexpected places, and above all, the struggle to remain human under the most inhumane conditions. From Publishers Weekly When the Red Army first arrived in the Polish town of Wlodzimierz-Wolynski in 1939, Bardach, a Polish Jew, was overjoyed believing that this army from the brave, new Soviet society was there to fight the Germans. He little dreamed that Poland would be partitioned in accord with the Hitler-Stalin nonaggression pact. After witnessing deportations and gratuitous brutality, Bardach was rather more skeptical by the time he was drafted into the Red Army in 1940. Soon after, he was sentenced to 10 years in a Soviet prison, and it's here in the labyrinthine world of the Soviet gulag that Bardach's gripping but matter-of-fact memoir really begins. Shipped from camp to camp, Bardach

ends up as a zek, a prison laborer, at the gold mines of Kolyma in Far Eastern Russia. Along the way, he encounters the random cruelty of Soviet prison life and the almost incomprehensible combination of harsh conditions and constant death that can break the human spirit. But even in these desensitizing conditions, certain individuals retained their humanity, such as Efim Polzun, a fellow Jew and Soviet officer, who got Bardach's sentence commuted, or Dr. Piasetsky, who let Bardach lie his way into a job as a clinic assistant. More than many such memoirs, this volume clearly manifests the constant struggle between maintaining one's life and maintaining one's humanity in inhumane situations. A fascinating history, this compelling memoir is also a story of inner resolve and the will to keep going. It's a worthy companion to such accounts as Alexander Solzhenitsyn's *The Gulag Archipelago* and Natalya Ginzburg's *Journey into the Whirlwind*. 26 bw photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sNo matter how often one reads of life in the Gulag and this is one of the best accounts one is still chilled by the extent of man's capacity for evil. This account by Bardach, now a surgeon at the University of Iowa, is, however, more nuanced, though there is no lack of brutality in this story of how he survived. A Polish Jew who admired the Soviet Union and wanted to fight for social justice, he was conscripted into the Red Army when it overran his area of Poland after the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact carved up the country. He appeared before a drumhead court-martial for losing his tank after the Germans attacked Russia in 1941 and was sentenced to ten years in the camps. For several weeks he crossed the Soviet Union in a closed cattle-truck, from which he escaped, and upon recapture he was almost beaten to death, being saved only by an officer who did not want the bureaucratic hassle of dealing with a death certificate. Among his worst experiences were his time in the mines, with the bitter cold, the pitiful rations, and the relentless work; and the long trip by sea to the Kolyma Peninsula, during which the male prisoners broke into the women's hold and literally raped many of them to death. And yet through it all, he says, it was his fate to meet people who not only saved my life but also showed me how to remain sensitive, people like Dr. Piasetsky, who pretended to believe that he had been a medical student, and let him stay as a hospital assistant, which saved him from the gold mines. To survive the Gulag you needed strength and luck, and Bardach had a good measure of both, but it is our good fortune that in doing so he has contributed to our knowledge of the human condition. -- Copyright 1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.