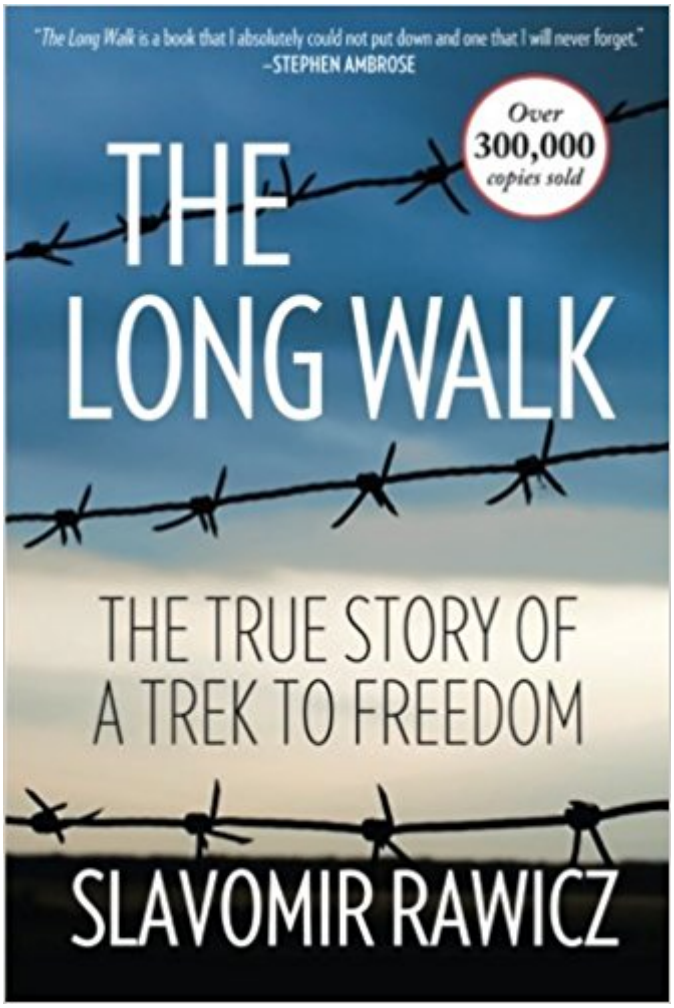
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The Long Walk: The True Story Of A Trek To Freedom



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Synopsis

"I hope The Long Walk will remain as a memorial to all those who live and die for freedom, and for all those who for many reasons could not speak for themselves."--Slavomir RawiczIn 1941, the author and six other fellow prisoners escaped a Soviet labor camp in Yakutsk--a camp where enduring hunger, cold, untended wounds, untreated illnesses, and avoiding daily executions were everyday feats. Their march--over thousands of miles by foot--out of Siberia, through China, the Gobi Desert, Tibet, and over the Himalayas to British India is a remarkable statement about man's desire to be free. While the original book sold hundreds of thousands of copies, this updated paperback version includes a new Afterword by the author, as well as the author's Foreword to the Polish book. Written in a hauntingly detailed, no holds barred way, the new edition of The Long Walk is destined to outrank its classic status and guaranteed to forever stay in the reader's mind. *** Six-time Academy AwardÃ¢â ¬â œnominee Peter Weir (Master and Commander, The Truman Show, and The Dead Poets Society) recently directed The Way Back, a much-anticipated film based on The Long Walk. Starring Colin Farrell, Jim Sturgess, and Ed Harris, it is due for release in 2011.

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Customer Reviews

Cavalry officer Slavomir Rawicz was captured by the Red Army in 1939 during the German-Soviet partition of Poland and was sent to the Siberian Gulag along with other captive Poles, Finns, Ukranians, Czechs, Greeks, and even a few English, French, and American unfortunates who had been caught up in the fighting. A year later, he and six comrades from various countries escaped

from a labor camp in Yakutsk and made their way, on foot, thousands of miles south to British India, where Rawicz reenlisted in the Polish army and fought against the Germans. The Long Walk recounts that adventure, which is surely one of the most curious treks in history. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"A poet with steel in his soul."--New York Times"One of the most amazing, heroic stories of this or any other time."--Chicago Tribune Ã¢â ¬Å“A book filled with the spirit of human dignity and the courage of men seeking freedom.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Los Angeles TimesÃ¢â ¬Å“Heroism is not the domain of the powerful; it is the domain of people whose only other alternative is to give up and dieÃ¢â ¬Â¦ [The Long Walk] must be readÃ¢â ¬â •and reread, and passed along to friends.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •National Geographic AdventureÃ¢â ¬Å“The ultimate human endurance storyÃ¢â ¬Â¦told with clarity, vivid description, and a good dash of romance and humor.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •The Vancouver Sun"The Long Walk is a book that I absolutely could not put down and one that I will never forget..."--Stephen Ambrose"One of the epic treks of the human race. Shackleton, Franklin, Amundsen.... History is filled with people who have crossed immense distances and survived despite horrific odds. None of them, however, has achieved the extraordinary feat Rawicz has recorded. He and his companions crossed an entire continent-the Siberian arctic, the Gobi desert and then the Himalayas-with nothing but an ax, a knife, and a week's worth of food.... His account is so filled with despair and suffering it is almost unreadable. But it must be read-and re-read." Ã¢â ¬â •Sebastian Junger, author of The Perfect Storm"Essentially it comes down to some sort of inner tenacity and that is what is so gripping about the book because you know that this is actually about all of us. It's not just some Polish bloke who wanted to get home. It's about how we all struggle on every day. Somehow or other we find a reason to keep on going and it's the same here but on an epic scale".--Benedict Allen, explorer and bestselling author of Into the Abyss and Edge of Blue Heaven

I liked this book. It is a heart-felt memoir of an escape from a WW II Soviet labor camp and a year-long trek from northeastern Siberia to India. Inspiring and adventurous. What I particularly enjoyed were the descriptions of the kindness that the local people throughout Siberia, Tibet, and the in the Gobi bestowed on these trekkers, who had minimal food and equipment. If they hadn’t received help from the locals, they would not have survived. The descriptions of the geography were also engaging. My only criticism of the book was that some parts strained credibility. I’m not saying the story is apocryphal, but perhaps the recounting from memory missed some important

details. For example, in describing their crossing of the Gobi desert, Rawicz says they sometimes walked as much as eight days without water. This is hard to believe. Walking three days in most desert environments without water is almost always fatal. Nevertheless, a good read.

I read this book some years ago. I don't think most people could put the book down once they begin reading it. To think of several individuals -- initially seven, then eight, and finally four, walking from northeast Siberia south across the Gobi Desert, China, the Himalayas and into India to escape a prison came seems impossible. It says much for the human spirit and the desire for freedom. There are a couple of things in the Kindle version that seemed to have been dropped from the original version. One was that some of the escapees ate locusts following a locust storm and millions of them were lying, dead and alive; others could not be made to try them. There was a locust storm in the Kindle version, but no mention of eating or not eating them. An occurrence at the labor camp in Siberia was not mentioned in the Kindle version. I have suggested this book to a number of people.

An amazing and engrossing story. The courage and perseverance and caring these men showed for each other was enlightening and inspiring. Read this story. You won't be disappointed

Second time I have read this book and wanted it in my kindle. 1st time was many years ago when it first came out, this translation I believe was better.

What an amazing story of human endurance! Who of us could imagine doing such a thing ? Or of even needing to. Most of us would just lie down in the mine and die without even thinking of escape. Each of his adventures could be a stand alone story. Well done.

Grim account of the author's abuse as a Polish soldier after capture by the Russians in 1939. Subjected to torture in various prisons, he refused to say what they wanted him to say (which would have been lies) and ended up in a prison in Siberia. He and the other prisoners had to WALK from Moscow to Siberia, tethered together by chains and walking behind a truck. Once in the prison, he starts to think about escape, enlists the help of a few others, and finally puts the plan into action. The rest of the book is the unimaginable account of these men, walking through snow, ice, mountain passes, then into the Gobi desert with heat, sand, and baking sun. Some of them die along the way, and some make it all the way to India and the safety of the British forces after a year of travel. It is an amazing story of the strength and resiliency of the human spirit.

Regardless of whether Slavomir RawiczÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s book contains the exact truth does not alter the remarkable account the narrative offers. The story also confirms that despite the harshness of warring nations and clashing ideologies there is much humanity in the world, and without it Rawicz and his companions would have certainly perished.Nicholas R.W. Henning ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ Australian Author

Questions have been raised about the "truthfullnes" of the story. I found it to be an enjoyable and interesting read regardless. Given the book was written through a 2nd person and many years after the fact, to expect every event to be "exactly" as it happened seems unrealistic.

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