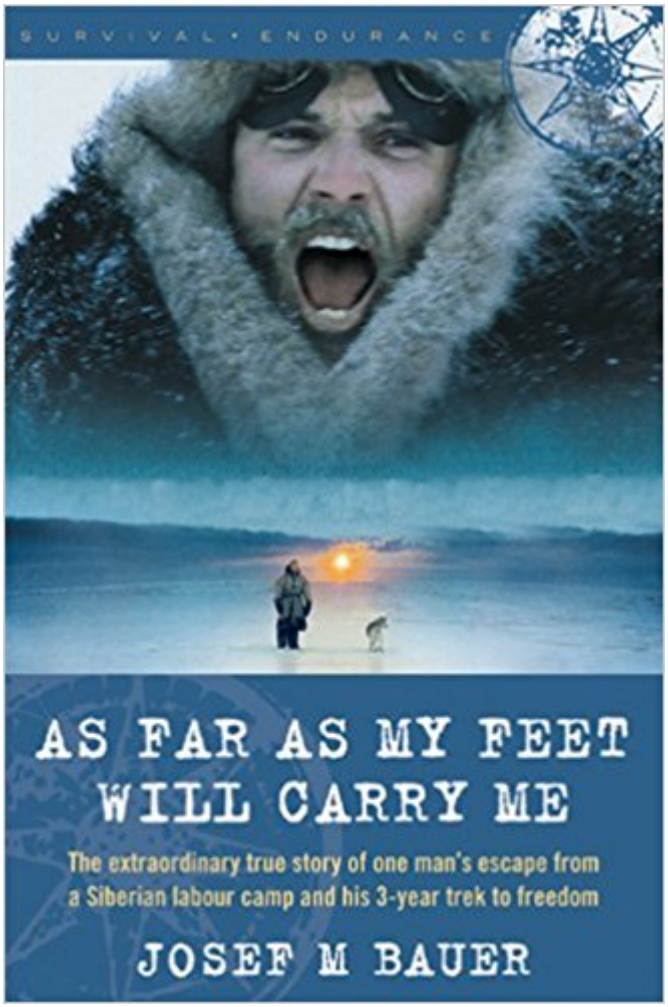
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As Far As My Feet Will Carry Me: The Extraordinary True Story Of One Man's Escape From A Siberian Labor Camp And His 3-Year Trek To Freedom




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Synopsis

In 1944, German paratrooper Clemens Forell was captured by the Soviets and sentenced to twenty-five years of labor in a Siberian lead mine. In the Gulags, this was virtually a death sentence. Driven to desperation by the brutality of the prison camp, he staged a daring escape. For the next three years, Forell traveled 8,000 miles in barren, frozen wilderness, haunted by blizzards, wolves, criminals, the KGB, and the fear of recapture and retribution. Only a remarkable will to survive, and a bit of luck, allowed him to reach the safety of the Persian border. The resulting story is a rare document of the horrors faced by POWs in the Soviet Union, and a testament to the human spirit.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A story of human courage, endurance and terror. Washington Post One of the wildest adventure books of our time. Curt Hohof, Suddeutsche Zeitung Bauer has given us more than a prisoner-of-war story; he has left us one of the greatest adventure stories. Die Welt --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

was a seminary student, editor, and writer. He produced stories, a radio play, and seven novels in a career spanning forty years.

Well, this story sounds like a good one, but a lot of the early writing is not very polished. I didn’t really enjoy this book until page 100, and then the story blossoms. I was riveted from then on, and

was so glad I decided to continue to read this one. One review kept haunting me, 'it isn't true'. So, I googled the brave sole this book is about, and on wikipedia I learned the story is not true. Yes, he was a pow for a couple of years, but released. So, complete fiction, but I have to admit I enjoyed it. I would enjoy more had it been true.

Excellent writing. It is a captivating account of the times. The description of determination and drive of the human soul. Could not put the book down.

This was a book I avoided purchasing for sometime. The topic seemed to be too outlandish. But the truth of the matter is, if anything, this is a the real deal. The man who this book is based on really did walk out of a Siberian lead mine and walked nearly 3,000 miles home.Try as I might, I can't seem to find a fault with the book or even a negative statement anywhere that suggests the story is not true. In light of that, I'm stunned, and more importantly the book opened my mind to the concept of German POWs spread around the world. Since I have read this book I have found reference to at least a dozen other soldiers who managed a similar escape, including one who escaped in the US, another by way of Canada and another Eastern Front veteran who walked out of Russia.The book is facilitating in concept. But loses a little in translation, but that does not take away in any form from the fact the book is an excellent easy book to follow. The concept of how this man escapes, what he does to survive and his sheer will to live are totally fascinating. He is the ultimate survivor, eating snow and small game, avoiding people where he can.The concept is fascinating. But as I mentioned truth is better than fiction. Things I enjoyed most about reading this book include the description of the vast land that is Siberia and the nature of hardy people who live there. I also enjoyed the fact the author was basically one step ahead of being captured for most of his trip. Also interesting are the personal relationships that develop over the years it takes him to escape.If you enjoyed this book you may enjoy The Final frontiersman, the story of an American who lives in the most remote areas of Alaska. Unfortunately, I can't seem to find an history book that would be a better companion except Guy Sajar's The Forgotten Soldier.

This story begins with the protagonists journey into imprisonment. We don't get details on the war at all but rather begin with his incarceration and brutal travels. The tale takes us to the labor camp where he works and some insight (but very little) into the details of daily life. A few incidents occur during the two years of imprisonment and then our protagonists makes his escape. The book is substantially about the journey from prison/labor camp to freedom and the events that occur along

that route.The drama of the story is compelling and reading it, I kept wanting to know how the subject of our story continued to survive, battling the brutal winter in Siberia and some of the villanous characters along the way. Throughout, this individuals courage and will to live proved inspiring.I've thoroughly enjoyed this book. While there are some areas I would have wanted more details, the drama is compelling. The author has taken appropriate liberty to weave the story telling as he explains in the forward. Overall, a great story of survival.

I am often drawn to these true tales of heroic survival and am often disappointed by the poor quality of the writing. This book was not only fascinating in content, it was very well written, telling an horrific story of deprivation and cruelty in the Siberian labor camp system interwoven with the journey of one man's prolonged escape. Few people would have made it to freedom given the mountain of obstacles faced by the protagonist, but he persevered and obtained his reward in the end.

All the superlatives belong to this tale: remarkable, daring, unbelievable, amazing, incredible, beyond belief, extraordinary. That a person could 1. escape from a Soviet labor camp, 2. in the dead of winter, 3. from the farthest eastern point of Siberia, 4. after suffering from hunger and brutal treatment for three years, and still 5. make it home to Germany safely after another three years is a story for all lovers of survival dramas. The author expertly and faithfully chronicles Josef Bauer's account without glossing over the details of what it took to survive. I didn't come to like Mr. Bauer from this telling, however, I did feel a deep respect for his perseverance and stamina. Two other books of escape and survival that I recommend even more highly are: The Long Walk: The True Story of a Trek to Freedom by Slavomir Rawicz and We Die Alone: A WWII Epic of Escape and Endurance by David Howarth.

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