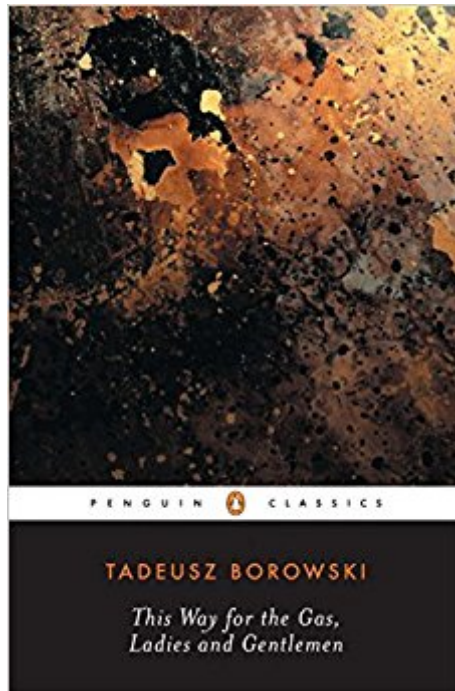




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This Way For The Gas, Ladies And Gentlemen (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

Tadeusz Borowski's concentration camp stories were based on his own experiences surviving Auschwitz and Dachau. In spare, brutal prose he describes a world where the will to survive overrides compassion and prisoners eat, work and sleep a few yards from where others are murdered; where the difference between human beings is reduced to a second bowl of soup, an extra blanket or the luxury of a pair of shoes with thick soles; and where the line between normality and abnormality vanishes. Published in Poland after the Second World War, these stories constitute a masterwork of world literature. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Polish

The quote "He understood what human beings will do to endure the unendurable" comes from the back cover blurb, and captures well Borowski's remarkable capacity to communicate how some of

the Birkenau and Auschwitz survivors were able to psychologically get through their horrific experiences. If you the reader can get through the almost unendurably painful first story of his once working on the ramp where the soon to be gassed new arrivals first get off the train (This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen), you will find that the remaining stories also make his time in the camps clear, but without the unrelenting horror.

This book is the most graphic description of existence in a concentration camp from an individual's point of view that I have ever read and I have read many descriptions and survivor's accounts. It uses very spare language but the details it describes speak for themselves. It is more horrible than Primo Levi's works. I read these accounts as a tribute both to the dead and to the survivors of the Holocaust, so they can be remembered as individual human beings and not just as statistics. If you read Elie Weisel and Primo Levi, you should also read this book.

I have read many dozens of books on the Holocaust: history, psychology, personal accounts, but this book of short stories, particularly the first one, blew my mind. I won't say why: it would lessen its impact.

This is one of the greatest books I have read on the Holocaust. A great insight what it was like in the Auschwitz camps and how horrible atrocities were and how inmates learned to survive.

Grim tale by a man who walked the horror! In the end, he may have survived but the horror and misery did him in. Fascinating daily horror by those who were just trying to get thru that one day, not thinking of the next. The story of that survival life was chilling. Some real life characters were so strong, thoughtful of suffering others, and some so absorbed in the self-survival being. Enlightening to say the least and admirable for those who got thru it.

Very moving book by T Borowski on stories of the concentration camps of WWII

Interesting to read a Nazi Concentration Camp experience by someone other than a Jew. The horror is well described in a more objective manner. It seems to me that the punishment of the SS and those others involved in the Camps workings was hardly adequate!!

Tough-minded, direct book. No self-pity from a survivor of various camps who gives an in-depth look

at real life in the camps.

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