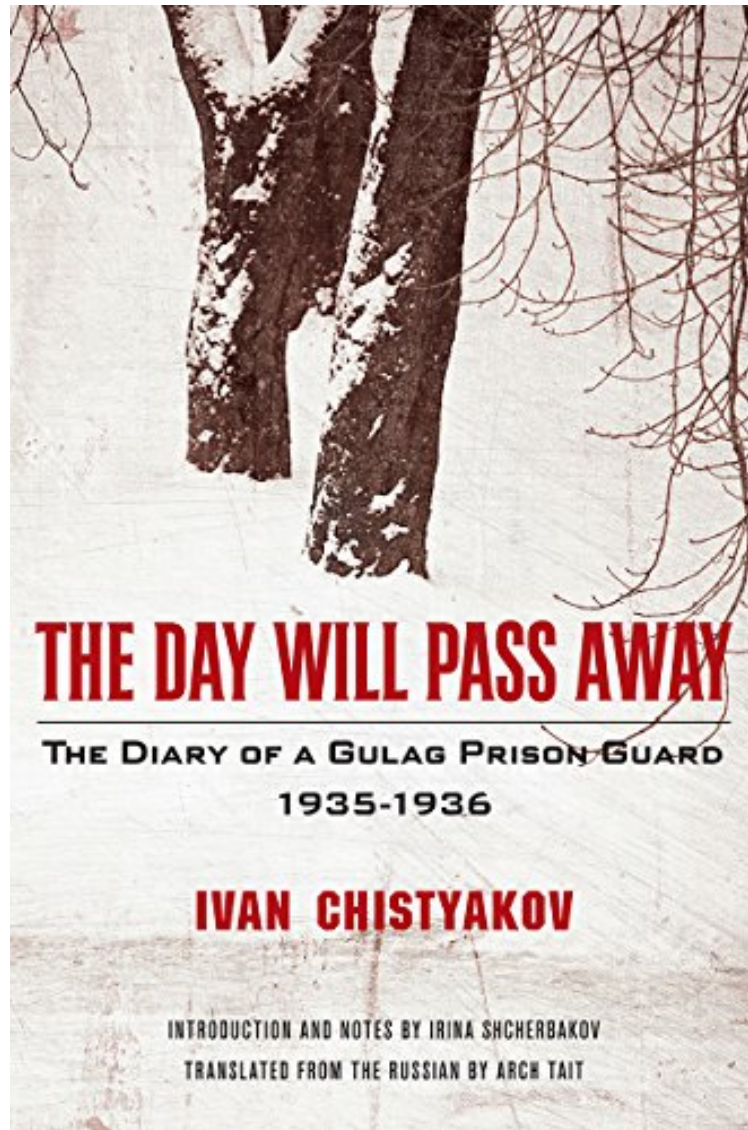


(Mobile pdf) The Day Will Pass Away: The Diary of a Gulag Prison Guard: 1935-1936

The Day Will Pass Away: The Diary of a Gulag Prison Guard: 1935-1936

Ivan Chistyakov

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Ivan Chistyakov : The Day Will Pass Away: The Diary of a Gulag Prison Guard: 1935-1936 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Day Will Pass Away: The Diary of a Gulag Prison Guard: 1935-1936:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very disappointing in terms of its readability but at least ...By FritZVery disappointing in terms of its readability but at least the introduction explained the historical significance of

its contribution to the time period in question. Nevertheless, I literally had to skip over large portions out of exasperation in order to finish it..

A rare first-person testimony of the hardships of a Soviet labor camp?long suppressed?that will become a cornerstone of understanding the Soviet Union. Originally written in a couple of humble exercise books, which were anonymously donated to the Memorial Human Rights Centre in Moscow, this remarkable diary is one of the few first-person accounts to survive the sprawling Soviet prison system. At the back of these exercise books there is a blurred snapshot and a note, "Chistyakov, Ivan Petrovich, repressed in 1937-38. Killed at the front in Tula Province in 1941." This is all that remains of Ivan Chistyakov, a senior guard at the Baikal Amur Corrective Labour Camp. Who was this lost man? How did he end up in the gulag? Though a guard, he is a type of prisoner, too. We learn that he is a cultured and urbane ex-city dweller with a secret nostalgia for pre-Revolutionary Russia. In this diary, Chistyakov does not just record his life in the camp, he narrates it. He is a sharp-eyed witness and a sympathetic, humane, and broken man. From stumblingly poetic musings on the bitter landscape of the taiga to matter-of-fact grumbles about the inefficiency of his stove, from accounts of the brutal conditions of the camp to reflections on the cruelty of loneliness, this diary is an astonishing record?a visceral and immediate description of a place and time whose repercussions still affect the shape of modern Russia, and modern Europe.

“Lacking the overt arc of a plotted narrative, this diary nonetheless conveys the increasing hopelessness of life at a forced-labor camp. Chistyakov provides a singular account from a category of gulag witnesses whose voices have rarely been heard?those who were neither the main victims nor the instigators of a brutal system but its unwilling enforcers, doomed to bit parts in both roles.” - Minneapolis Star Tribune“A chilling, revealing diary of a reluctant gulag prison guard. A singular crack inside the gulag system.” - Kirkus s“Straightforward and ever-interesting.” - Publishers Weekly“Owing to its relative scarcity, a diary from a guard at a Gulag during Joseph Stalin’s Soviet reign will attract readers and researchers seeking primary documents from that era.” - Library JournalAbout the AuthorIvan Chistyakov was a Muscovite who was expelled from the Communist Party during the purges of the late 1920s and early 1930s. He commanded an armed guard unit on a section of BAM, the Baikal-Amur Mainline, which was built by forced labor. He was killed in 1941.Arch Tait was awarded the PEN Literature in Translation prize in 2010 for his translation of Anna Politkovskaya's Putin's Russia. To date he has translated twenty-seven books from Russian, most recently the memoirs of Akhmed Zakayev.