



The Journals of a White Sea Wolf

By Mariusz Wilk

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In 1991, Mariusz Wilk, a Polish journalist long fascinated by the mysteries of the Russian soul, decided to take up residence in the Solovki islands, a lonely archipelago lost amid the far northern reaches of Russia's White Sea. For Wilk, these islands represented the quintessence of Russia—a place of exile and a microcosm of the crumbling Soviet empire. On the one hand, they were a cradle of the Orthodox faith and home to an important monastery; on the other, it was here that the first experimental gulag was built after the 1917 revolution. Over the course of the years, Wilk came to know every single one of the island's 1,000 or so residents. From his remote home, from which he sent regular dispatches to the Paris-based Polish newspaper, *Kultura*, he attempted to observe and come to terms with the complexities and contradictions of Russian history, its glorious past and the cruelty of Soviet Communism.

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Editorial Review

Review

"the extraordinary record of six years spent by a Polish journalist on the Solovetski Islands the book evokes a Russia in miniature. By turns poetic, learned, pretentious, harshly evocative, it creates its own dense, surreal world, which tells more about the inner nature of Russia than a library of others." Colin Thubron, Sunday Telegraph "by turns grouchy and lyrical, [Wilk] draws out the essence of the Solovetski islands in Russia's far north and, in the process, provides unique insight into the country itself." Caroline Gascoigne, The Sunday Times

From the Inside Flap

An account of the six years the author spent in the Solovki islands, an archipelago of 1,000 or so residents in the far northern reaches of Russia's White Sea.

About the Author

Mariusz Wilk was born in Wroclaw, Poland in 1955. He was active in the opposition movement between 1977 and 1981 and was imprisoned for his involvement with Solidarnosc. He works as a journalist.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Veronica McFadden:

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