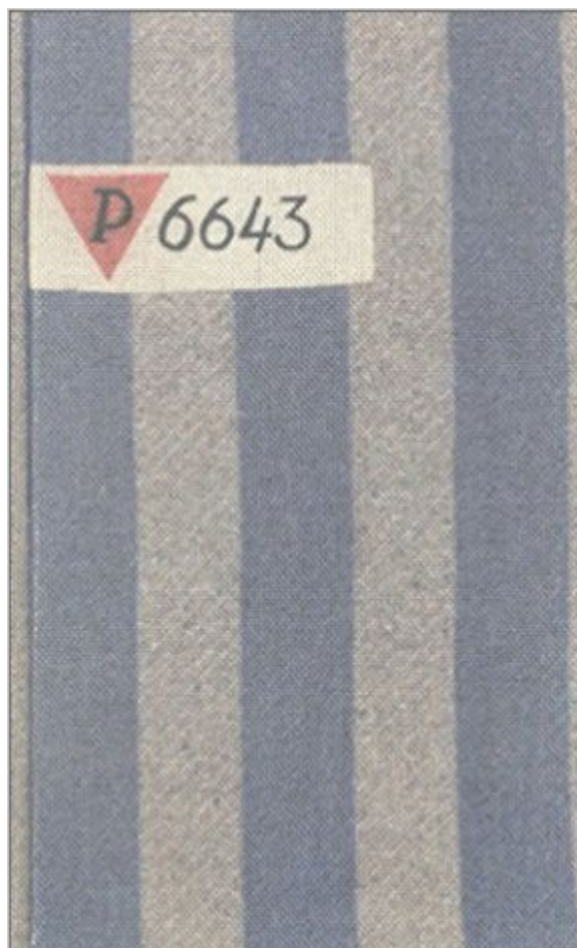


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# We Were In Auschwitz



## Synopsis

Book by Siedlecki, Janusz Nel

## Book Information

Hardcover: 212 pages

Publisher: Welcome Rain Publishers (February 15, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1566491231

ISBN-13: 978-1566491235

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #375,820 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #59 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > Jewish](#) #8226 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical](#)

## Customer Reviews

I say worst not because it was poorly written or translated but because the descriptions of the events and the people are \*almost\* too horrible to believe. At times I was too sickened to continue reading but I desired to know how they survived the sights, the smells, the screams, the smoke. When I finished the book, I found inspiration-- if anyone could survive Auschwitz, then the small trivial problems that we sometimes let control our lives can be overcome. The book, unfortunately, ends abruptly as if the authors in recounting these horrible memories could stand them no more. I would have liked to have read about their liberation and their lives after the war, but I thank them for having the courage and the strength to give us their account of this inhuman history.

Survivors did not triumph, they were just lucky or resourceful... Since there is no description at this time for this book, let me add one. In 1945, three Polish survivors of Auschwitz (non-Jewish political prisoners) wrote their memories. These are graphic, unsparing memories that are fresh, since they were written right after liberation. They honestly discuss the inhumane, unspeakable conditions of starvation and daily deaths, and even murders among prisoners (kapos). This is the first time this book has ever been translated into English. In 1951, Tadeusz Borowski (#119198) previously authored a collection of memories in "This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentleman". He then committed suicide. This is an essential addition to anyone interested in Holocaust studies, but be

warned that it is devastating. By the way, Janusz Nel Siedlecki was Number 6643, and Krystyn Olszewski was Number 7587.

The reviewers of this book have done a masterful job. However, the paragraph on p.141 beginning, "We work beneath the earth and above it, under a roof and in the rain, with spade, the pickaxe and the crowbar." ... and ending with "Antiquity--the conspiracy of free men against slaves!" deserves reading and rereading, after which the next six paragraphs should be read slowly and thoughtfully.

I cannot give this account of the "concentration universe" a certain number of "stars," although that was required to write this review. How trite that is. Accounts such as these were never intended to be evaluated so. I feel compelled to explain to the reader something of the philosophy of Borowski, one of authors of this account. His writings were driven by an anger that was the result of a "disappointed love of the world and of humanity." In his mind and in his writings he reduced the world and humanity to its simplest and most brutal factors. His anger from this disappointment grew in him a particular philosophy of human existence, and accordingly his accounts of human existence became naked, brutal portrayals of this theory. All that he records in this narrative is true, but not all of the truth of his experience is recorded here. His anger fed off of a fear that any hope or faith in humanity could only be a self-deception, as he perceived history had proven with Nazism. Yet, I believe the accounts detailed here of the naked actions of man under these most extreme of circumstances should never be discounted or forgotten, albeit there will always be other accounts and other truths of humankind. Borowski committed suicide in his home in Warsaw in 1951.

Not an easy read. The publishers used actual Auschwitz prison inmate's uniforms to cover part of their edition. The one I got from you had a look alike cardboard cover. If you happen to have one with the clothing cover please let me know.

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