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Russian Criminal Tattoo Encyclopaedia Volume II

Danzig Baldaev

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Danzig Baldaev : Russian Criminal Tattoo Encyclopaedia Volume II before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Russian Criminal Tattoo Encyclopaedia Volume II:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. History - In tattoo form.By The Stark FamilyThe books are a history of the Soviet penal system as much as they are a reflection of a dark period of Russian history. The tattoos illustrated

men and women who often were sent to prison for as little as stealing an ear of corn during famished times are the pictorial description of an oppressive regime and the confessions of the disenfranchised who did not benefit from it. Recommended for all who love Russian history, and those who love tattoos.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I'm glad it's available againBy gtoman67This volume must have gone out of print earlier than I or III, as I recall it being prohibitively expensive when I bought the others several years back. I'm glad it's available again, as I found the non-pictorial content here far surpassed that available in the other volumes. The map of the camps made me instantly realize why Solzhenitsyn named his masterpiece "The Gulag Archipelago".Be forewarned that the body art reproduced here could be considered very offensive by some as well as pornographic.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Sweet!By JadeGreat gift for tattoo lover or cool coffee table book. Detailed info about Russian tattoos,more than just pictures, very interesting.

Danzig Baldaev's father was an academic, an ethnologist who found himself imprisoned under Soviet rule as an enemy of the people. In fact much of Baldaev's family moved through the Soviet prison system, while he became a guard. At his father's suggestion, Danzig used his access to document and study the tattoos that were pervasive among the truly criminal portion of the prison population, the vory v zakonye, or legitimate thieves, a semi-professional class who kept their own brutal laws. During his 30 years supervising inmates in St. Petersburg's notorious Kresty Prison, Baldaev recorded more than 3,000 of their tattoos and parsed their meanings, in the drawings and text that made the first volume of the Russian Criminal Tattoo Encyclopedia a bestseller. This essential second volume, which collects all-new, previously unseen photographs and drawings, goes to the extremes of his incredible collection. Sergei Vasiliev's photographs authenticate the images, Baldaev's drawings make sense of them and through them both we glimpse an extraordinary world where the criminal's position, history and even sexual preference are displayed indelibly on his body.

This completely mind-blowing book told us what the tattoos meant, and how they could become central to the movie. -- David Cronenberg. Director, Eastern Promises (2007)