

Russian diaspora narrative non-fiction

3 1/2 . With Prisoner's Respect and Fraternal Warmth

Nonfiction memoir. Individuum. Moscow 2018. 416 pages

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In December 2014, the Navalny brothers, Oleg and Alexei, were convicted in the 'Yves Rocher case'. Alexei got 3 years of probation, while Oleg was sentenced to 3 years in prison. Although the European court of human rights ruled that the convictions were arbitrary and unfair, Oleg served the entire term, 1278 days.

This book, mostly written in prison, gives an account of everything that happened to him during that time. Plus, the narrative is complemented with detailed drawings. If you read this book, you will find out what is the difference between the red and the black zone, what prison sheets and towels are for, where to hide a sim card during a search and more. But most importantly, this book is about remaining resilient even in the most outrageous, horrible and bizarre circumstances.



THE AUTHOR

"All stories about prison are to a certain extent similar to each other, like road movies. Therefore, what is important, who talks about the prison and how. Navalny's book is a book about how not to get lost even in the most wild, terrible and ridiculous circumstances."
AFISHA

"Oleg Navalny's book continues a huge tradition: prison has always been among the places where the history of literary, religious, philosophic, and political thought was created. Some writers began their literary careers in the solitude of the cell. Prison was not only embarrassing, but also inspiring, demanding not only silence, but also words. Oleg Navalny's book is an excellent example of such writing."
KOMMERSANT

"Perhaps the most important Russian work of 2018. The illustrated story of a person who was wrongly convicted and lost 3.5 years of normal life. Without an understanding and awareness of what North Korean wilderness the country is heading towards, it will be difficult to build a beautiful Russia of the future. This should be public task number 1."
LABIRINT

Oleg Navalny is a Russian businessman and social activist, the younger brother of Alexei Navalny. He became famous when, together with his brother, he was convicted of embezzlement and sentenced to 3.5 years of incarceration. The European Court of Human Rights ruled that his conviction was arbitrary and unfair. Oleg wrote his book while in prison. He was released in June 2018. Navalny has left Russia.

Oleg Navalny