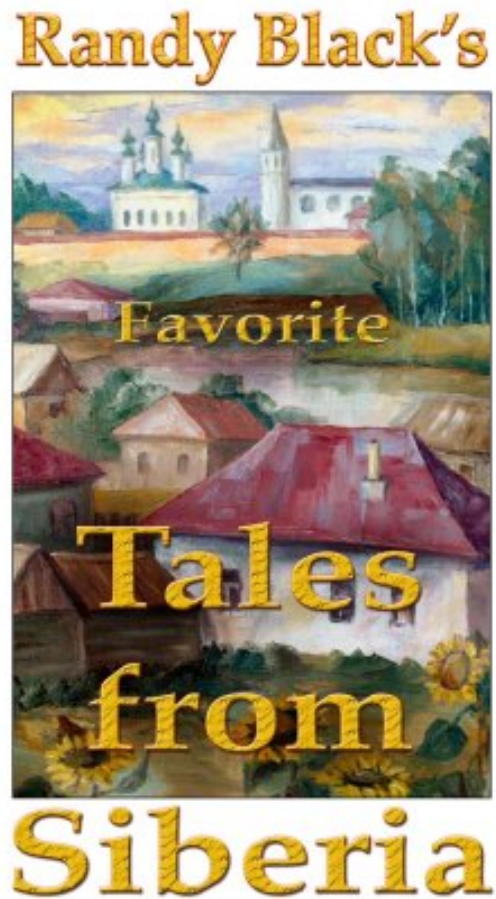


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Randy Black's Favorite Tales from Siberia

Randy Black

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Randy Black : Randy Black's Favorite Tales from Siberia before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Randy Black's Favorite Tales from Siberia:

Tales from Siberia is a poignant, entertaining and stimulating narrative from the first American to live in Omsk (Siberia) during Russia's economic and social upheavals of the 1990s. Randy Black's collection of heart-touching,

inspiring and sometimes humorous stories chronicles Russians as they confront the painful thawing out process from their 75-year communist deepfreeze.

From the Author
Disillusioned by the politics of the 1960s, many American college students including several of my friends dropped out of society and hitchhiked their way across the world in search of the meaning of life. I was not one of them. I grew up in Texas, graduated from Texas Tech University, fulfilled my military obligation during difficult times, began my career while constantly searching for new adventures. Always a late bloomer, decades passed before I began to question my existence and life's meaning. In January 1993, shortly after my 47th birthday, I sold my home, my prized red Ford Mustang convertible and many of my worldly possessions, farmed out my cat to a friend in Dallas, kissed my friends and family good-bye, and moved to Russia. Not just Russia--but Siberia--as in a very, very cold and faraway place. The stories, adventures and the people described in this book are real. I lived these experiences, met these individuals, taught those I met along the way what I could about the outside world and learned about the meaning of life as a foreigner in a foreign land. My discoveries--about people, survival and my-self--are the result of meeting the children, parents, grandparents, teachers, politicians and even the dogs of Russia. I learned to live with myself and by myself with little outside stimuli and to enjoy the experience. I learned by watching, listening and experiencing life without CNN, 24-hour shopping opportunities, central heat and air-conditioning or fast food chains. I lived on about \$65 per month for a year, in a 40-year-old Khrushchev-era college dormitory in Omsk, a city of 1.3 million, about 1,500 miles east of Moscow and a couple of decades from my birthplace in Texas. The following year, I lived on an American salary in Moscow, which was much more comfortable. Despite the higher income, I lived in a modest Russian apartment with my frugal Russian bride. By then, I had a newfound attitude about what is important in life and what is not. Along the way during my two year adventure, I learned about resilience, resourcefulness, love, the importance of hope to one's life and how similar we all are--no matter where we live. --Randy Black, 2007
About the Author
Randy Black was born in Fort Worth, Texas in 1945. Raised in Dallas, Randy attended Highland Park High School and graduated from Texas Tech University in 1971 with a degree in Journalism. After college, Randy fulfilled his childhood dream by playing professional golf for several years, competing in PGA events and serving as a head pro at a club near Palm Springs, California. After one too many three-putt greens, Randy joined the Dallas Times Herald, a 400,000 circulation afternoon daily as a sports writer, photographer and feature writer. In 1982, he moved into corporate communications. Over the next couple of decades, he managed marketing communications programs for firms involved in financial services, commercial real estate, travel and hospitality, semiconductor manufacturing and oil and gas exploration. Randy, his Russian-American wife, Olga, their Texas-born daughter, Natasha, his mother-in-law, Zoya, their cat, Corona, and their beagle, Blackie, live near Dallas.