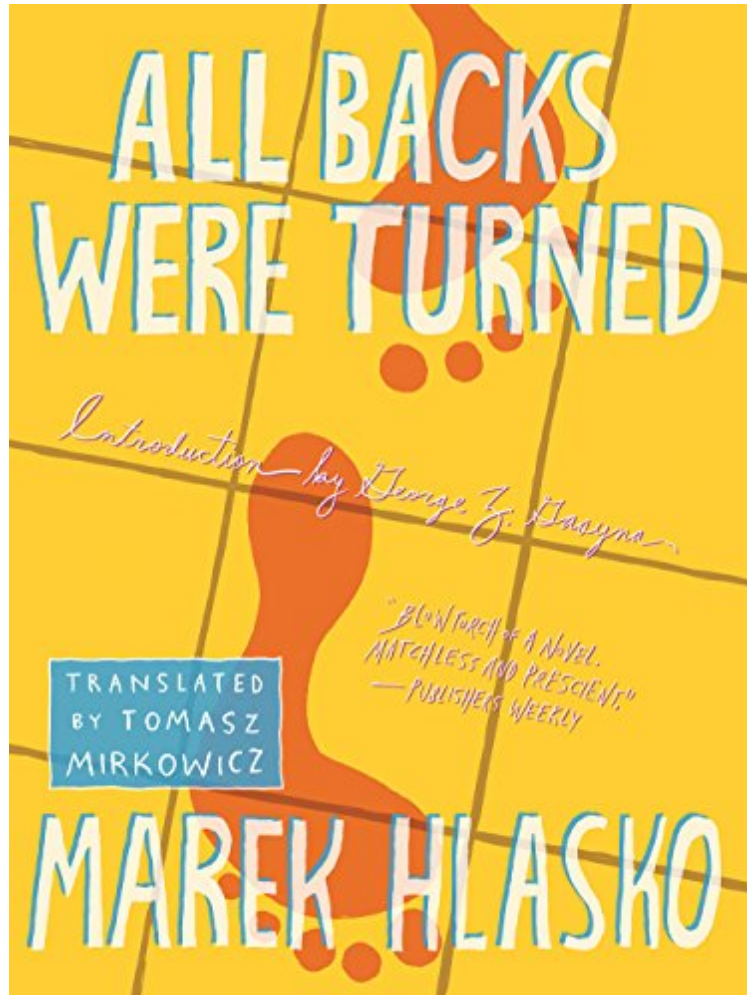


(Download free ebook) All Backs Were Turned (Rebel Lit)

## All Backs Were Turned (Rebel Lit)

Marek Hlasko

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**Marek Hlasko : All Backs Were Turned (Rebel Lit)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised All Backs Were Turned (Rebel Lit):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. funny, cosmopolitanBy Jacob KiernanAnother banger from Marek Hlasko and New Vessel. Action-packed, funny, cosmopolitan, All Backs Were Turned gives new definition to dirty realism. Hlasko humorously depicts two brothers (who share the same name) trying to start a business driving a gypsy cab (pre-Uber) in order escape the gritty underworld that surrounds them. All Backs Were Turned is plot driven, but has poetic moments of reflection on love, friendship and the State of Israel. A must read for anyone who is interested in politics or is just looking for an entertaining read.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Disaffected, Existentialist NovelBy BOODONKA:)With All Backs Were Turned, Hlasko's vision of life has become remarkably bleak. The novel churns with the inevitability of his (more famous) Eighth Day Of the Week and the pessimism of

Killing The Second Dog (also set in Israel), but unfortunately in many places the dialogue seems to have eaten this novel. Consequently, it reads like a screenplay. But some people like reading screenplays, just as some people don't mind a pinch of pretension mixed in with their authentic, hard-won wisdom. Hlasko clearly had the latter in abundance: working as a pimp, being an exile, etc. This novel-- and Hlasko's work in general-- is important because it represents a unique crossroads of many disparate currents of 20th century literature. Only Hlasko examines the soul-killing effects of life under Communism, while capturing the nihilistic swoon of the Beats, the grit of hard-boiled crime fiction, and the openness and sense of urgency of existentialism. No one else.

"Hlasko was an original. His novels were fearless, his vision unsparing, and decades later, his darkly brilliant work has lost none of its power to unsettle. He achieved what few other writers ever have: he turned the literary landscape into a much more interesting place than it was when he found it." —Emily St. John Mandel, author of *Station Eleven*, *Last Night in Montreal* and *The Singer's Gun*"Blowtorch of a novel . . . matchless and prescient."—Publishers Weekly"Spokesman for those who were angry and beat . . . turbulent, temperamental, and tortured."—The New York Times"A self-taught writer with an uncanny gift for narrative and dialogue . . . a born rebel and troublemaker of immense charm."—Roman PolanskiIn this novel of breathtaking tension and sweltering love, two desperate friends on the edge of the law—one of them tough and gutsy, the other small and scared—travel to the southern Israeli city of Eilat to find work. There, Dov Ben Dov, the handsome native Israeli with a reputation for causing trouble, and Israel, his sidekick, stay with Ben Dov's recently married younger brother, Little Dov, who has enough trouble of his own. Local toughs are encroaching on Little Dov's business, and he enlists his older brother to drive them away. It doesn't help that a beautiful German widow named Ursula is rooming next door. What follows is a story of passion, deception, violence, and betrayal, all conveyed in hardboiled prose reminiscent of Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler, with a cinematic style that would make Humphrey Bogart and Marlon Brando green with envy. Marek Hlasko, known as the James Dean of Eastern Europe, was exiled from Communist Poland and spent his life wandering the globe. He died in 1969 of an overdose of alcohol and sleeping pills in Wiesbaden, Germany.

From Publishers WeeklyExposing human souls poisoned by self-hatred, this blowtorch of a novel gives us a trenchant appraisal of pre-1967 Israel, again demonstrating Hlasko's ( *Killing the Second Dog* ) empathy for society's desperate discards. The eminent Polish writer, who committed suicide at the age of 35 in 1969 during an 11-year self-exile, sets the book in the desert town of Elath, now a resort but in the early '60s a sweltering dumping ground for parolees and ne'er-do-wells. Here, ferrying a handful of hardy tourists around in a jeep, are Polish Holocaust survivor Israel Berg and native Israeli Dov Ben Dov. A disgraced officer who was a 1948 War hero, Dov mourns an estranged wife whose lover he murdered. Dov's younger brother, who bears the same name but is referred to as Little Dov, is a fisherman whose territory is being encroached upon by thugs spoiling for a fight; but parolee Dov resists Little Dov's entreaties for intervention. Israel is assailed by Holocaust survivors and native Israelis for his pacifism; Little Dov's wife lusts after Dov, and a visiting German woman tries to wrench Israel from Dov; Dov reviles his religious, quarrelsome father; and rich American Jewish tourists are resented and courted by their Israeli brethren. Although Hlasko bludgeons the reader with an ending that features castration and multiple murders, matchless and prescient is the author's vision of the tensions erupting in the Promised Land. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Kirkus sA somber but accomplished novel of pervasive brutality and violence, in a place as hopeless and hellish as Devil's Island, from the late Polish Beat-writer and dissident Hlasko (*Killing the Second Dog*, 1990). On parole, with a string of assault charges behind him, Sabra Dov Ben Dov and friend Israel take the only job they can find--driving tourists around Elath in the Sinai desert, where the heat and dryness are so harsh that people begin to lose their hair and teeth within two years of being there. Convicts are routinely sent here to serve out the rest of their sentences, and the few tourists who come to see the historic sights don't stay long. Elath is also the home of Dov's younger brother, also called Dov, his wife Esther, and their father--an angry and malicious old man. Dov Ben Dov, a hot-tempered former war hero, brooding over his wife, who has left him for another man (whose child she is bearing), is tormented by dreams. His friend Israel cannot forgive his mother for making him leave college in Europe, and young brother Dov, a fisherman, is losing his business to a group of convicts who have better boats than he does. Older Dov, fearing that his own parole will be revoked, refuses to help his brother beat them up. An explosive situation--already exacerbated by heat, sexual desire, and a sense of futility--is finally ignited by the arrival of tourist Ursula, who falls in love with Israel. Deciding that he's trying to be like Dov, which is impossible, she takes certain steps that lead inevitably to what the local police describe as "accidental mayhem" and murder. A story as bleak and unrelenting as its setting, in which no one escapes the past or themselves. Nihilistic but compelling. -- Copyright ©1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.Language NotesText: English (translation) Original Language: Polish