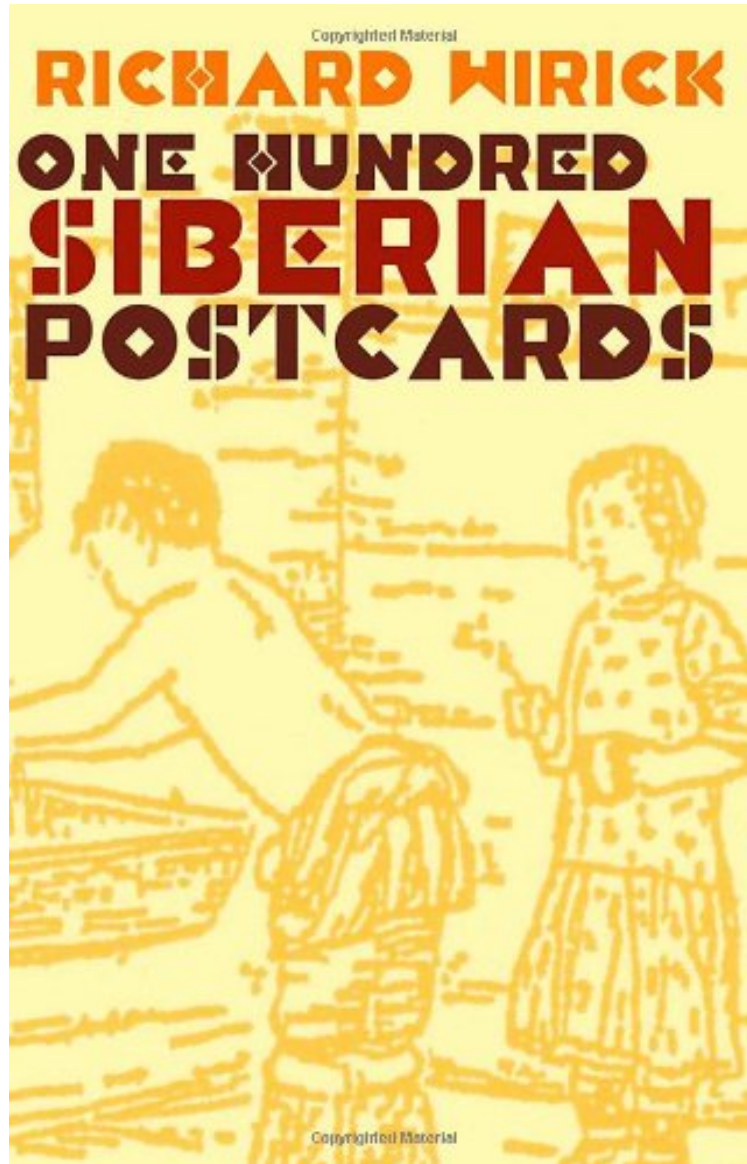


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## One Hundred Siberian Postcards

*Richard Wirick*

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**Richard Wirick : One Hundred Siberian Postcards** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised One Hundred Siberian Postcards:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. GOODBy KIMBERLY EMERSONGood. Not what I was expecting but I can still use the product. My fault for not reading the whole description.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Brilliantly ExecutedBy J. A. GollinThe vignettes of Richard Wirick's Siberian Postcards form a portrait of

Russia's outback, a wilderness whose forests, steppes and decayed industrial cities are little known to Westerners fond of nouveau riche Moscow and St. Petersburg. Wirick, who adopted an infant daughter from a Siberian orphanage in 2005, has schooled himself in the region's history and folklore. He has studied the legends of Siberian shamans, the explorations and conquests of the Cossacks, the crimes committed in the aftermath of the Revolution. His visits to children's homes have given him compelling evidence of the "demographic catastrophe" that followed the fall of the Soviet Union, leaving nearly a million Russian children abandoned in decrepit orphanages. His impressions of Siberia are set down with poetic precision; in his often poignant stories, every word tells. The critical praise offered by English poet Hugo Williams is warranted in Wirick's case: this is, as Williams says, "a brilliantly executed masterpiece." 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Stunning all the long day long By Shauna McKenna Richard Wirick takes the literary sacred and the nonfiction profane and cracks them together, two eggs in a bowl. Someone needs to talk about what it means to adopt a child, someone needs to talk about Russia in what seems like its posthistorical phase, someone needs to talk about wildflowers, someone needs to talk about the distinct character of Siberia, and quietly through it all, that someone needs to talk about himself. Wirick does all this by skirting round the edges of narrative -- similar to Ben Marcus in his *Notable American Women* -- and the fact that there is fiber and marrow and heart beneath the words makes it that much more remarkable. A truly transformative book.

"Entrancing. . . Each snow-bright 'postcard' catches a facet of Siberian myth, history or wildlife, from mutant fish to marauding bears. From the 'land of mines,' he digs up gem after glittering gem."—*The Independent* "A magical book."—*The Times* Richard Wirick and his wife go to Siberia to adopt a baby girl. Rather than produce a straightforward account of this journey, Wirick has chosen instead to produce one hundred interlocking vignettes in order to evoke for his new daughter the grandeur of her birthplace. Richard Wirick's fiction, essays, and journalism have appeared in *Fiction*, *Quarterly West*, *Playboy*, and *Another Chicago Magazine*. He is co-founder and editor of the journal *Transformation*.

'A brilliant idea, brilliantly executed.' Hugo Williams, author of *Dear Room* 'Richard Wirick is an insurance lawyer with the soul - and the pen - of a poet.' Anna Reid, author of *Borderland: A Journey through the History of Ukraine* 'Wirick's profoundly moving book is unlike anything else I've read; an ode to Siberia as much as it is to the human condition.' Samantha Gillison, author of *The King of America* 'Attentive and compassionate, Richard Wirick has journeyed through Siberia and returned with it.' John Witte, Editor of *Northwest* About the Author Richard Wirick's fiction, essays and journalism have appeared in *Fiction*, *Quarterly West*, *Northwest*, *Playboy*, *Another Chicago Magazine*, *Indiana* and elsewhere. He is completing a collection of short stories, *Fables of Rescue*, and is co-founder and editor of the journal *Transformation*.