



Allen-Walters presents the intertwined stories of two families in the Banat region of Serbia during World War II whose unwavering Christian faith guides them through the brutal hardships of communist rule in what was then named Yugoslavia. The book emphasizes how their steadfast adherence to their beliefs provided both protection and strength in the face of oppression, as they ultimately found their freedom and immigration to the United States. Central to the narrative is Kalman Hartig, a courageous Seventh-day Adventist and violinist, who endured persecution and imprisonment as a conscientious objector.

Walters skillfully depicts the Hartig and Kirchner families' experiences, exploring sibling tensions and early religious influences, with family photographs adding personal and historical depth. The book intricately weaves these family stories against the backdrop of war and post-war challenges, particularly focusing on religious tolerance and immigration. Rich with biblical stories and verses that deepen the characters' motivations, the memoir vividly portrays the horrors of labor camps and prisons, leaving readers deeply moved. Kalman's letters to his family ground the narrative, evoking empathy far beyond simple descriptions. Themes of healing and rebuilding with familial support are also explored. Kalman Hartig's story is a powerful testament to the resilience of the human spirit, faith, and the transformative power of music. Through Hartig's harrowing experiences, the book explores themes of perseverance, integrity, and the will to survive despite unrelenting cruelty. This moving account not only honors Hartig's bravery but also serves as a call to cherish freedom and practice tolerance for all religious and ethnic backgrounds. This book will resonate deeply with readers who value personal stories of overcoming adversity, particularly within the context of faith-based endurance.

Takeaway: Rousing story of Christian perseverance under communist rule.

Comparable Titles: Walter J. Ciszek's *With God in Russia*, Liao Yiwu's *God Is Red*.

Production grades

Cover: **A-**

Design and typography: **A**

Illustrations: **A**

Editing: **A-**

Marketing copy: **A-**

