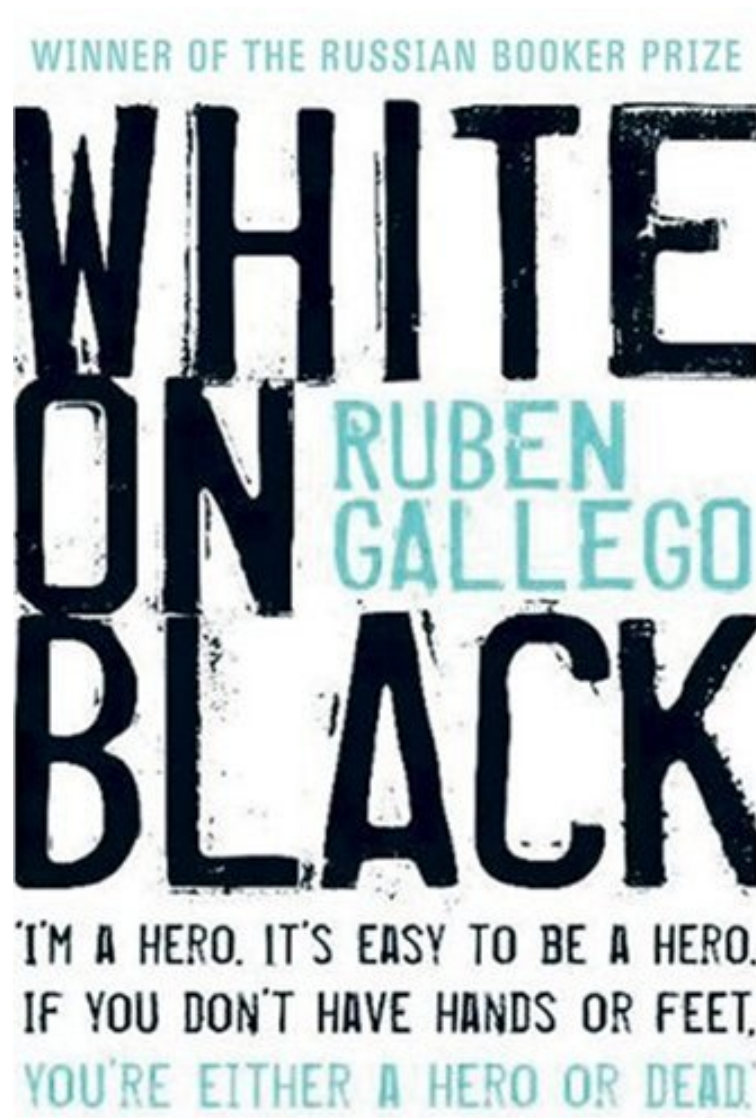


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Ruben Gallego : White on Black before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised White on Black:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The life is preciousBy Alla RogozovskyThis book is about invalid children, which were fought for surviving in the Children's home in the Soviet union.This book is about, that life is precious in spite of hardships. The every child was a hero because they did not have parents, legs or arms or hands.This book teaches us about not only value of life but also about the cruelty of the Soviet socialist

regime. Everybody who is fond of socialist ideas must read this book. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent and important book By Till This is an excellent book and the author is very talented. It was very important reading for me both personally and professionally. I highly recommend this book to anyone who does any international humanitarian work, adoptions, or professional service working with child abandonment, disabilities, and orphanages. However, this book is much more than a professional reading. Different dimensions of life. Good book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. suffering By sveta It is a very heart touching stories of a disabled child in a former Soviet Union. And it is about human being able to survive in non human environment.

This is an extraordinary personal testament, the story of one boy's triumph in the face of impossible obstacles. Born with cerebral palsy in Moscow, Ruben Gallego was hidden away in Soviet state institutions by his maternal grandfather, the secretary general of the Spanish Communist Party in the 1960s. His was a boyhood spent in orphanages, hospitals, and old-age homes, a life of emotional deprivation and loss of human dignity.

From Publishers Weekly To be a crippled orphan anywhere is a sad thing; worst, undoubtedly, in the Third World, but no picnic in the Soviet Union. Gallego, a brilliant boy born with cerebral palsy, with hands and feet so twisted that though he could crawl he could use only his left index finger, was abandoned to state institutions by his grandfather in the 1960s. That he survived this "cruel and terrible" childhood is a tribute to a remarkably strong will. The most atrocious fact of many that readers learn is that eventually, usually at age 15, institutionalized boys, Gallego included, were transferred from children's wards to the "old folks' home," where they lay in their own urine until they died; in one month, seven out of eight perished. Amazingly, Gallego lived to marry, have children and write this extraordinary book of "stories," spare, elliptical, often fierce vignettes centered around remembered figures and events: "a bite of lard, a salami sandwich, a handful of figs, a blue sky, a couple of books, and a kind word." These glimpses of adversity and triumph are quirky, sometimes appalling, often funny and touching without being sentimental. The book won the 2003 Russian Booker Prize and should receive similar acclaim here. (Jan.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. PRAISE FOR WHITE ON BLACK "This book is today's Gulag Archipelago, a plea to ordinary people not to close themselves off to the truth." --The New York Times "Mr. Gallego's little book is deeply moving, his triumph a joy to read about." The Washington Times