Ivan Bahrianyi

TIGER TRAPPERS

an adventure novel

The first edition - 1944

"It is better to die running than to live rotting!"
**Ivan Bahrianyi**  
Ivan Lozoviahin  
(1906-1963)

We are. We were.  
And we will be.  
And our Motherland is with us!

**TIGER TRAPPERS**

The first title of the novel is "Beast catchers".  
The work was written in 14 days.

**The time of events**: The 1930s.

**The place of events**: Ukraine - a train to Siberia  
- Siberia - the taiga (a boreal forest) - Zeleny Klyn settlement - Khabarovsk - Manchuria

**THE GENRE**
An adventure novel

**THE LITERARY MOVEMENT**
modernism

**THE TREND**
neorealism, neo-romanticism

**THE DOUBLE MOTIVE**
"the confrontation between good and evil", "a strong person", "the great power of love", "the anti-human nature of the Soviet system"

**THE THEME**
A portrayal of the tragic fate of the individual in the Soviet totalitarian regime

**THE IDEA**
The victory of good over evil; under any circumstances, one must remain a Human Being

**A writer-emigrant**  
(Germany), a publicist, a playwright, a public figure

**A descendant of Hetman Demian Mnohohrishnyi**  
(1668-1672), who was exiled to Siberia for 25 years

**Hryhoriy Mnohohohrishnyi**  
(a young Ukrainian aviation engineer exiled to Siberia)

**The Sirko family**  
(Tiger Trappers)

- **Natalka**  
(a girl-trapper)
- **Hryts**  
(a brave, true heir of the Cossack family)
- **Sirchykha**  
(an idealised image of a mother, a guardian)

**The Moroz family**

- **Denys Sirko**  
(father, a wise, noble and sensitive man)
- **Fiona**  
(a woman of easy virtue)
- **NKVD* Major Medvin**  
(Hryhoriy's torturer and investigator)
- **Natalka's dog Zalyvay**
- **The Moroz family**

**CHARACTER**

"Once something has taken possession of her heart, it's over!"

A symbol of the taiga

Tiger

**THE CHARACTERS**

A daughter  
A son  
Natalka's dog Zalyvay  
A descendant of Hetman Demian Mnohohrishnyi (1668-1672), who was exiled to Siberia for 25 years  
Hryhoriy Mnohohohrishnyi (a young Ukrainian aviation engineer exiled to Siberia)  
NKVD* Major Medvin (Hryhoriy's torturer and investigator)  
Fiona (a woman of easy virtue)  
Denys Sirko (father, a wise, noble and sensitive man)  
Sirchykha (an idealised image of a mother, a guardian)  
The Moroz family
Exhausted and hungry, Mnohohohrishnyi has been wandering through the taiga for days.

He hears the terrible roar of a bear attacking a girl. With the last of his strength he kills the bear and, seeing the girl's face, faints.

I'm glad I found a rusty knife.

The steamer "Joseph Stalin" pulls a 60-car "death train" carrying prisoners for hard labour. The second echelon, the comfortable express, is carrying the party elite on hunting trips.

We won't give you away, Hryhoriy, run away! You're a strong fighter!

At each station, Major Medvin checks everyone on the list, especially Hryhoriy Mnohohohrishnyi, who escaped by jumping out of the carriage.

At the border, Hryhoriy and Natalka stage a diversion, cunningly diverting the guards' attention, cross it and send Zalyvai with a note on its collar:

On Christmas Day, Hryhoriy and Hrytsko are going to the station to hand over the furs. There are trains with prisoners... People's unhappy conversations.

Are they looking for a stranger in our area...

Strange...

And this is about me...

We won't give you away, Hryhoriy, run away! You're a strong fighter!

We bless you, children! Let us know when you cross the border!

What a joy!

Alive! Healthy!

On the fifth day, Zalyvay, who has always been loyal to Natalka, runs away. It went to catch up, without hope of catching up. But the brave always have happiness!

The boy goes in search of his enemy, finds and kills him along with his companion, leaving an inscription on the snow:

It's me, Hryhoriy Mnohohohrishnyi, who judged and executed the sentence.

The Sirko do not ask Hryhoriy anything, take him hunting, and introduce him to the Moroz family.

Horrors are happening in the camp! Innocent people are being killed! This horror has already reached Siberia.

And I had to be there...

At each station, Major Medvin checks everyone on the list, especially Hryhoriy Mnohohohrishnyi, who escaped by jumping out of the carriage.

We have our own Ukraine here, son!

And I'm Natalka! You saved me!

The Sirko do not ask Hryhoriy anything, take him hunting, and introduce him to the Moroz family.

Where is Mnohohohrishnyi!!!!

Hryhoriy wakes up in the Ukrainian house of the Sirko family, who fled from Zelenyi Klyn to the taiga when terrible times came. All the tiger hunters, except for their mother.

We have our own Ukraine here, son!

Horrors are happening in the camp! Innocent people are being killed! This horror has already reached Siberia.

And I had to be there...

The boy goes in search of his enemy, finds and kills him along with his companion, leaving an inscription on the snow:

It's me, Hryhoriy Mnohohohrishnyi, who judged and executed the sentence.

Someone has rummaged through their tent.

Wow! A cigarette butt!!! "Golden Mark"?!!!

Natalka doesn't let Hryhoriy go alone and confesses her love for him.

You're not going anywhere without me! Dad says I'm a 'real fighter' too!

We bless you, children! Let us know when you cross the border!

What a joy!

Alive! Healthy!

On the fifth day, Zalyvay, who has always been loyal to Natalka, runs away. It went to catch up, without hope of catching up. But the brave always have happiness!

The steamer "Joseph Stalin" pulls a 60-car "death train" carrying prisoners for hard labour. The second echelon, the comfortable express, is carrying the party elite on hunting trips.

We won't give you away, Hryhoriy, run away! You're a strong fighter!

At each station, Major Medvin checks everyone on the list, especially Hryhoriy Mnohohohrishnyi, who escaped by jumping out of the carriage.

At the border, Hryhoriy and Natalka stage a diversion, cunningly diverting the guards' attention, cross it and send Zalyvai with a note on its collar:

On the fifth day, Zalyvay, who has always been loyal to Natalka, runs away. It went to catch up, without hope of catching up. But the brave always have happiness!

The boy goes in search of his enemy, finds and kills him along with his companion, leaving an inscription on the snow:

It's me, Hryhoriy Mnohohohrishnyi, who judged and executed the sentence.

Someone has rummaged through their tent.

Wow! A cigarette butt!!! "Golden Mark"?!!!

Natalka doesn't let Hryhoriy go alone and confesses her love for him.

You're not going anywhere without me! Dad says I'm a 'real fighter' too!

We bless you, children! Let us know when you cross the border!

What a joy!

Alive! Healthy!

On the fifth day, Zalyvay, who has always been loyal to Natalka, runs away. It went to catch up, without hope of catching up. But the brave always have happiness!
GLOSSARY

NKVD* (The People’s Commissariat for Internal Affairs (PCIA))

NOTES