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# The Railway Man: A POW's Searing Account Of War, Brutality And Forgiveness (Movie Tie-in Editions)



## Synopsis

Now a Major Motion Picture Starring Colin Firth and Nicole Kidman. *The Railway Man* is a remarkable memoir of forgiveness – a tremendous testament to the courage that propels one toward remembrance, and finally, peace with the past. Eric Lomax, sent to Malaya in World War II, was taken prisoner by the Japanese and put to punishing work on the notorious Burma-Siam railway. After the radio he illicitly helped to build in order to follow war news was discovered, he was subjected to two years of starvation and torture. He would never forget the interpreter at these brutal sessions. Fifty years after returning home from the war, marrying, and gaining the strength from his wife Patti to fight his demons, he learned the interpreter was alive. Through letters and meeting with his former torturer, Lomax bravely moved beyond bitterness drawing on an extraordinary will to extend forgiveness.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Eric Lomax, a British army soldier, was captured by the Japanese during the Singapore campaign of 1942. A railroad buff since a child, he took strange pleasure in his work as a POW on the Burma-Siam Railroad, which was later the subject of the film *Bridge Over the River Kwai*. When his captors discovered his detailed drawings of the railway, he was suspected as a spy and tortured for years. Fifty years later he discovered that the interpreter during his tortures was still alive. The two arranged a meeting and Lomax forgave him. Here is the exciting, moving and truthful account.

--This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Lomax, a British Army signals officer, was captured by the victorious Japanese during the Singapore campaign in 1942. Fascinated by railroads ever since his childhood in Edinburgh, he took what pleasure he could in the irony of his slave-labor assignment as a POW: the construction of the Burma-Siam Railroad, made famous later in the David Lean film *Bridge over the River Kwai*. When guards discovered his lovingly detailed map of the right-of-way, Lomax was turned over to the Japanese secret police as a suspected spy. In the subsequent torture sessions, the interpreter, a young man named Nagase Takeshi, played a prominent role in the effort to break him down. Half a century later, by what he calls "an incredible and precious coincidence," Lomax learned that Takeshi was still living. A meeting of reconciliation at the Kwai River, which Lomax at first suspected was a fraudulent publicity stunt, was arranged. His graceful and restrained account of how the two men eventually became "blood-brothers" after Lomax granted Takeshi full forgiveness is deeply moving. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

the *Railway Man* is an awesome story of Resilience , forgiveness and what it means to be human. I had heard about this book during a sermon a few weeks ago. Normally I do not read anything that even has violence in it, but the way the pastor described the story I had to read it. It is the story on and English POW is a Japanese Prison camp during the 2nd world war. I recommend this book and it will restore your faith in God's love and forgiveness and humanity.

I at first did not think this would be a book I would enjoy. It was recommended by someone who was touched by it, and was given such rave reviews I felt obligated to try it. I am a middle aged white woman from America. What could I understand about the war from this man's perspective? However, at the conclusion, I find myself in tears. I am moved at the descriptions of war and suffering, including the PTSD that Mr. Lomax suffered from. He points out that we all have our sufferings, and while they might not be equal, they can be just as damaging to each of us. His journey to recovery is inspiring and amazing, and I find my heart warmed that he found closure for one of his internal demons. He is an articulate writer and was quite able to take his readers on a little journey through what he had been through.

This book reads like a great novel but when you realise it is a true story written by a man not avowedly social or outgoing, it is a masterpiece of communication. It is an autobiography that is a

page turner - a very rare thing. It conveys messages about where people fit in society, or try to fit in. Messages of the madness of war and the lengths people will go to under those conditions and ultimately messages of reconciliation. I think in modern times, Mr Lomax would have been diagnosed with autism and when you consider the traits of autism and the huge suffering that being a prisoner of war would impose on that condition, it is astonishing that he survived to be such a courageous and insightful man. I have not seen the recent film but if you are interested in this story of suffering, courage and reconciliation, I would advise reading the book rather than seeing the film, which seems to focus on a love affair that is barely mentioned in the book. I think the film has taken this story in a completely different direction to sell it in box offices. I would heartily recommend the book.

I'll start this by saying I haven't seen the film and didn't really know what to expect other than what I had read from the book description. I found this book interesting but rather flat, given the subject matter. Mr. Lomax writes clearly about his experiences but I found there was a lack of emotion throughout most of the parts which dealt with his imprisonment and torture. He writes quite formally as he is recounting events but it's all done with a great deal of British reserve (something I'm well acquainted with). While he speaks of outrage, hate, anger or despair, these emotions felt quite ethereal to me; I knew they were there but just not strong enough for me to fully recognise. It was frustrating because I didn't feel I was getting a true sense of what he went through, which surely must have been horrific. In some ways the first three quarters of the book was a recounting of personal facts and dates, he recounts the events as an Officer would in a report at times. This may have been a way for him to cope with the recounting of events, he may also not want to colour the readers experience or turn the book into a pity party for him, I just found there was a disconnect. Once Mr. Lomax moves into his post war experiences there is much more emotion to be found and I found I was able to connect with the story much more. This part of the book went by quickly for me, was very powerful and quite emotionally wrenching. This review is in no way a judgement, slight or questioning of the experiences Mr. Lomax was forced to endure. That he survived and was eventually able to move past his experiences is incredible. If you're looking for a book about the construction of the Burma Railway from the perspective of a POW then this book is probably not what you're looking for. It gives some details about this, the his reason for his imprisonment and torture are related to his time working on the railway, however it is more a personal account of a man's ordeal and survival of imprisonment, starvation and torture at the hands of the Japanese Imperial Army. The book is well worth a read, particularly for the final chapters. I enjoyed it and

would recommend it.

Very interesting movie, but troubling movie. Bought the book, too, which does tell a somewhat different story than the movie. I finished the book just before a trip to Singapore and was able to tour the Canning Hill Bunker where the British made the decision to surrender to the Japanese. Got to see where Eric Lomax actually sat in the signals room.

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