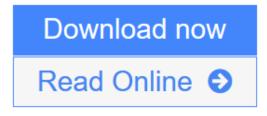


## A Leap to Freedom: Boston Harbor 1989

Lynda M. Healey



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In the predawn hours of January 5, 1989, Edziu Polonka stands on the deck of the Kantar, a fishing trawler from Communist Poland, anchored in Boston Harbor. The trawler awaits the arrival of a refueling barge. Edziu, one of its crewmen, awaits the moment when he can jump over the ship's rail and onto the American barge below to seek political asylum; he awaits his leap to freedom. Edziu's journey to that moment on the Kantar's deck takes him through a chaotic childhood as the son of a Communist Party official, a dangerous life at sea, and the chaos of his own adult life. It is a journey complicated by a Communist political system where the mere suggestion of disloyalty can lead to terrible consequences, especially if that suggestion comes from your politically connected wife.

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#### Taken from back cover:

It was a waiting game. He had made the decision eons ago, it seemed, and had no doubt about his resolve; he would jump, he would desert. He would leave his ship, his family, his country, everything he had ever known and worked for. He would leave it all and risk the terrible consequences of possible failure for the chance to start his life anew in a land of freedom. But right now, all he could do was wait to see where his chance would come, wait to see how it would play out.

So begins the story of Edziu Polonka's journey from a chaotic childhood as the son of a Communist Party functionary to Boston Harbor and his desperate leap to freedom from a fishing trawler from Communist Poland. It is the story of one man's quest for home, family and a place to belong.

### A Leap to Freedom: Boston Harbor 1989 Details

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### **Rena says**

This book was both easy and hard to read. The easy part came with how the story itself flow to create the world where readers could easily see themselves in, even if it is in another part of the world. The hard part for me was the Polish language that appears now and again. I was pretty sure I butchered the words when I try to pronounce it in my head and that made me giggle, maybe an index with pronunciation at the end of the book would help?

The other hard part was the sheer depressing state of Edziu's life was a bit hard for me read. And because it is base on a true story that made it even more sad. I was also angry for him too, the way that important people in his life would treat him like garbage.

There are a few instances in the book where I feel that rhythm of the story was a bit weird, like the author was building anticipation in the story that something big was about to happen to Edziu but then it fell flat in it's face and left me disappointed.

Overall, a good story with a nice bit of adventure and some Poland culture in 1980's. If you're interested in both, give this book a read.

[Disclaimer: Copy received from Giveaway.]

### **Chris says**

Loved the book. It was an easy read and kept me wanting to read more. Captivating. I remember the story on the news when 12 sailors jumped ship in Boston Harbor. It was interesting to read about Edziu and his life in Poland. Most people have forgotten or don't know about what life is like in Communism/Socialism. Great story. Something for everyone...personal struggle, adventure, history. Would love to see this made into a movie!

### Nikhil says

The story itself is incredible. The concept behind it, showing how Edziu got to the point of defecting, is brilliant. Each individual glimpse into Edzius life gave the reader an intimate sense of his character and beliefs. The prose itself, however, does not seem to measure up to this concept. The structure of the writing was not up to par, especially in terms of transition and flow. The dialogue itself was often too mechanical and detracted from the character portrayals. As a result, the rhythm that was building up from the nature of the tale to be constantly interrupted and broken. Overall it is a captivating story but the writing itself could be much better.

I received a free copy of this book via a Goodreads giveaway.

### Cassy says

I received this book as a Goodreads winner. I found this to be a really captivating yet depressing read. Edziu's life is just one disappointment and struggle after another. Plus the fact that it's a true story is heartbreaking.