Contents

	Foreword, by Simon Burnett	11
	Preface, by Karl Wilhelm Fricke	15
I.	The Wall Went Straight Through My Heart	19
	A Baby between Two Worlds	21
	A Doctor Deserts his Post	23
	Open Arms in the West	24
	"Let the Child Die"	26
	A Decision of Life or Death	27
II.	Childhood and Youth-from the Nazis to the Red Army	31
	A Town on the River Elbe	33
	My Parents	33
	The Pottery	36
	Boycott of the Jews	38
	Prisoners of War	38
	Allied Planes Make Strafing Runs	40
	Betrayal and Denunciation	40
	My Father Vanishes into a Soviet Labour Camp	41
	Drunken Guards Play a Game of Death	43
	Forced out of Our House	44
	Family Documents Found in the Garden	46
	A Socialist Takeover	48
	Witnesses Barred from Testifying	52
III.	The 1950s	55
	GDR and My First Love	57
	Into Marriage under Full Sail	59
IV.	In the Clutches of a Bumbling Bureaucracy	61
	Struggling for Torsten's Life	63
	I Feel a Sense of Panic	65
	Escape Plans	65



	The Copenhagen Route	67
	Trapped in Red Tape	67
	Meeting Point Ostbahnhof	69
	My Optimism Fades	71
	The Tunnel	72
	The Dead Letter Box	73
V.	Licensed Thuggery	77
	Kidnapped on the Street	79
	Captivity	79
	I Become a Number	81
	Interrogations at Midnight	83
	Tapping-the Cell Phone	84
	The Stasi Tries to Recruit Me	85
	My Guardian Angel	87
	A Voice from the Dead	90
	"Brigant" Calls In	90
	The Trial	92
	Tirade of Hate from the Judge	94
	Thrown into the Dreaded Submarine Cell	96
	Walls Have Ears	99
	A Letter from the Yellow Misery	100
	The Unbelievable-Freedom	101
VI.	Life in a Police State	105
	No Highway to the West	107
	At the Mercy of the Petty Tyrants	107
	A Keystone Cops Farce	109
	No Job in the Workers' Paradise	110
	Torsten Remains in West Berlin	112
	The Homecoming, with Helicopter Escort	116
	Hartmut Scuffles with a Guard	118
	Defying Stalinism in the Classroom	120
	The Regime Begins to Wobble	124
	The Berlin Wall Falls	126
	Bliss! An Italian Excursion	128

VII.	Picking up the Pieces	129
	Ghosts from the Past	131
	Prison Sentence Overturned	133
	We Appeal Against the Pottery Seizure	133
	A Look into the Stasi Files	134
	A Shock Meeting	134
	The Trauma of Revisiting Prison	137
	The Stasi Old Guard Fights Back	138
	My Arrest Exposed as a Mockery of Justice	139
	Jail Poems Rediscovered	141
	An Ode to Spring	141
	Verse that Irritated the Guards	143
VIII.	Appendix	147
	The Stasi Prison: A White Space on the Map	148
	Chronology	150
	Acknowledgements	152
	Index of Peoples	153
	Bibliography	153
	Picture Credits	153

Notes

The German Democratic Republik (GDR) was the formal name for the communist state of East Germany. The Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) was the formal name for the state of West Germany. The Stasi was the name of the East German secret police (STAatsSIcherheit)