Preface

I have used John Glad’s translation of Kolyma Tales throughout this study and all quotations are from this edition. The meanings of any Russian words will appear in the footnotes as required and were for the most part obtained from Robert Reid of Keele University. Throughout this study I have constantly used the male pronoun in reference to the protagonist, focaliser, narrative voice and unnamed convicts. This is simply because the criminal world of the Gulag was primarily made up of male prisoners. There were, of course, women in the camps, but Shalamov makes little reference to them in his Kolyma Tales, and none appear in the tales chosen for this book. For the transliteration of proper names I have used the Library of Congress system, but to avoid confusion, Shalamov’s fictional character names are from J. Glad’s translation.

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