

Brief Synopsis of *Plagues and Miracles*

Maciej Stefan Kumosa

With its rare blend of science, politics, humor, and humanity, *Plagues and Miracles* is an unforgettable narrative of survival, transformation, and the enduring belief that miracles do exist—even when the plagues seem endless.

Plagues and Miracles is a sweeping memoir that charts the extraordinary life of Maciej Kumosa, a boy born in war-ravaged Warsaw who survives communism, escapes to the West, and rises to global prominence in science and engineering. Spanning over seventy years and three continents, the book offers a deeply personal yet universally resonant journey through oppressive ideologies, academic triumphs, devastating betrayals, and moments of grace that Kumosa calls “miracles.”

From his early days in a provincial Polish town where books were his lifeline, to Cambridge University where his scientific career flourished, to the U.S., where he helped revolutionize high-voltage engineering, Kumosa’s story is told with wit, emotion, and unflinching honesty. Along the way, he reflects on language, culture, education, and resilience. He survives martial law, political purges, and false accusations in academia while founding a groundbreaking NSF research center and mentoring dozens of successful PhD students.

Kumosa also examines the ideological shifts in his own life, from being a communist believer to an outspoken critic and social justice advocate. His battles against discrimination within American universities, particularly at the University of Denver, culminate in a dramatic struggle for integrity and minority rights.

Beyond professional achievements, the memoir explores personal tragedies—divorce, medical crises, public defamation—and the redemptive power of nature, family, and faith. Whether dancing with a bear at 9,000 feet or confronting near-death in open-heart surgery, Kumosa never loses his sense of wonder or commitment to truth.

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