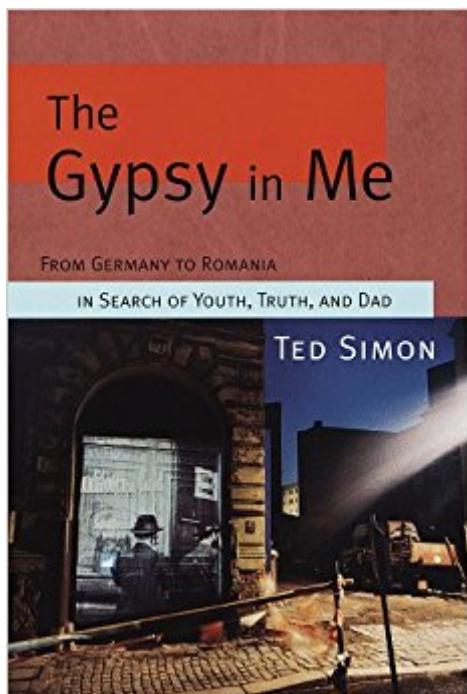


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The Gypsy In Me: From Germany To Romania In Search Of Youth, Truth, And Dad



Synopsis

The author of Jupiter's Travels details his 1,500-mile journey through Germany, Poland, Russia, the Ukraine, and Romania, offering a personal look at Eastern Europe in the throes of change, from the German homeland of his mother to the birthplace of his Romanian-Jewish father. 15,000 first printing."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

His mother was German and the father he didn't know was a Romanian Jew. And at the age of 50, shortly after his mother's death and long after his absent father's, Ted Simon embarks on a 1,500-mile journey (mostly by foot), covering the lands between his mother's Germany and his father's Romania, discovering as much about his paternal ambivalence as he does about the cultures and realities of Eastern Europe. The book is a fine example of the travelogue, with humor, evocative description, and a poignant inner journey as interesting and well-explored as his Romanian-bound route.

Simon, whose previous work, Jupiter's Travel (Jupitalia Prods, 1983, 3d ed., pap.), recounted a motorcycle trip around the world, has now walked through parts of Germany, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, and Romania. Armed with a few youthful memories, he visits sites associated with his family and finally reaches his destination, Romania, where he finds the roots of his Jewish parents and grandparents. Freed of his usual obligations and social context, he learns as much about himself along the way as he learns about the country. His odyssey offers readers memorable

sketches of life in eastern Europe in the post-Cold War era. This work joins a growing bookshelf of well-written travel literature. It belongs in general collections and should have broad appeal.?Rena Fowler, Humboldt State Univ., Arcata, Cal.Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

On so many levels. As a travelogue, geography lesson of new as opposed to previous, with a historical perspective. It is terrible to see how conditions exist in the Balkans now for the basic necessities of life. I know Ted Simon and have read most of his work.

Ted Simon has done some amazing trips on motorcycles. Worth a read if you liked Jupiter's Travels and other Motorcycle Adventure books you love it.

more sharing from Ted Simons. I'm a big fan!

I am an American student living in Vienna for four months and travelling throughout Central Europe. I've read many travel books during my trip and found Simon's to be one of the best. Simon's walk through Central Europe provides the reader with a better understanding of the region and its people while also challenging the individual to find more in his or her daily experiences. When travelling in Central Europe at the end of the millennium, you are bound to ask yourself questions about the changes that have taken place over the last decade and how those changes are effecting the people who live in these countries. The Gypsy in Me provides some answers and challenges the reader to stray from the big tourist sites and find some locals to just sit and talk.

I have read quite a few travel books, and this one is one of the best, by far. When you try to describe to someone a chapter you have just read, you realize that there is not much action to convey, but what he does leave you with is an amazing insight into his and other peoples emotions. This book reminds me of sitting around and listening to a favorite uncle tell tales of yesteryear. The images are first rate and the storyteller makes it very obvious he was often touched in ways that is almost beyond description. I highly recommend this book.

I love Ted Simon's writing for his honesty, integrity, his luminous descriptions of people and places, his empathy, revealing of his inner thoughts and his philosophy of life. He makes you wish you were half as good. I'd walk to the Arctic Circle with him tomorrow. Eagerly awaiting more.

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