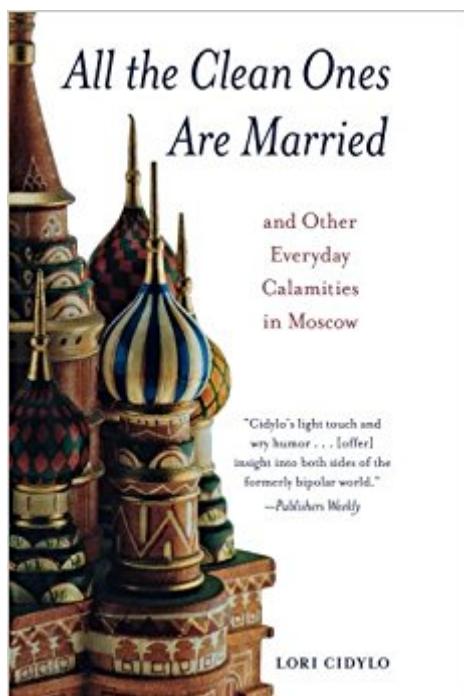


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All The Clean Ones Are Married: And Other Everyday Calamities In Moscow



Synopsis

In 1991, Lori Cidylo shocked her Ukrainian Polish-born parents when she told them she was leaving her reporter's job in upstate New York to live and work in the rapidly dissolving Soviet Union. For the next six years she lived on a shoestring budget in Moscow, in tiny, run-down apartments, coping with the daily calamities of life in Russia. Fluent in Russian, she rode public transportation, did her own shopping and cooking, and shared the typical Musovite's life—unlike most Westerners who were sequestered in heavily guarded compounds reserved for diplomats and journalists. As the country experienced its most dramatic transformation since the Bolshevik Revolution, she realized she had stepped into a fantastical and absurd adventure. Cidylo's wry, insightful account of what it was like for an American woman living in Russia is a dramatic tale full of insouciant laughter, in which vividness and immediacy shine on every page. With the sharp eye of an acute observer, she captures both the momentous events and the everyday trivia: how do Russians address one another now that the familiar "comrade" is passé; or, how do you find your way home in a city where the streets keep getting new names? As Russia even now continues to struggle with the Cold War's aftermath, Cidylo gives a delightful surprising, warmly human view of post-Soviet life.

Book Information

Paperback: 254 pages

Publisher: Chicago Review Press (April 1, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 089733745X

ISBN-13: 978-0897337458

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #619,160 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #109 in Books > Travel > Asia > Russia > General #408 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Russia #1577 in Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Travel

Customer Reviews

"A beguiling memoir . . . [Cidylo] serves up amusing slices of Soviet life. . . [E]vocative vignettes of ordinary life." — Kirkus Reviews "Despite continual frustration with everyday life in

Moscow (her search for a washing machine, for example, takes on the fervor of a quest for the Holy Grail), Cidylo retains her sense of humor and makes every effort to adapt. She aptly sums up a foreigner's perspective when she writes, "Many of us don't realize just how ill prepared for life we are until we arrive in Russia." The best of this fall's new travel books..." •New York Times Book Review, "Best Travel Books of 2001" A fascinating glimpse of post-Soviet society during a time of turmoil and drastic change. •Library Journal "Cidylo's light touch and wry humor make this a distinctive trip, offering insight into both sides of the formerly bipolar world." •Publishers Weekly

Lori Cidylo is a freelance journalist whose work has appeared in the Boston Herald, the Chicago Tribune, the Economist, the Los Angeles Times, Newsday, and other publications.

This book is a smooth and entertaining read from the very start. There's a wonderful combination of personal anecdotes and actual history that I've never experienced with another novel. I DEFINITELY recommend buying and reading All The Clean Ones Are Married by Lori Cidylo!

This book really surprised me. Having read several books about Russia, I thought I knew a lot about this vast, inscrutable country. However, as I delved into the book, I discovered many things I didn't know. I had no idea that people's telephones (including the author's) were still tapped by the KGB well into the 1990s and that this was actually legal. I also found out that it was possible, in fact preferable, to use American dollars instead of Russian rubles, but the dollars had to look new. If your money was even slightly creased, no one would accept it! So what does the author do? She actually irons all of her American dollars! I loved all the apartments she lived in. Her first place was on the "Highway of the Enthusiasts." Another apartment actually belonged to one of Stalin's generals (he was assassinated). What really amazed me is that throughout attempted coups and many other "everyday calamities," Lori somehow managed to make a life for herself. Somehow she comes through it all unscathed and with her sense of humor in tact. Luckily for those of us who will probably never go to Russia, she has also given us this book, which somehow manages to be funny most of the time.

What a great book! Lori, an American girl of Ukrainian descent, shocks her parents with the news,

that she has taken a newspaper job in Moscow. The year is 1991. They try to dissuade her since they lived under Communist rule. Just a couple of weeks after Lori arrives, communism falls and the Soviet Union no longer exists. This is the story of her five years in the capital. From her hilarious attempts at finding a washing machine to her insights during different government overthrows while literally under fire, to her thoughts on dating Russian men and her sadness for Russian lack of feelings in regards to public safety, this book captivates the reader. I wonder if she has returned to visit during Putin's years and would love to read about her further travels.

one of the best books I've read in a while. I learned a lot and enjoyed myself in the process. Thank you so much.

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