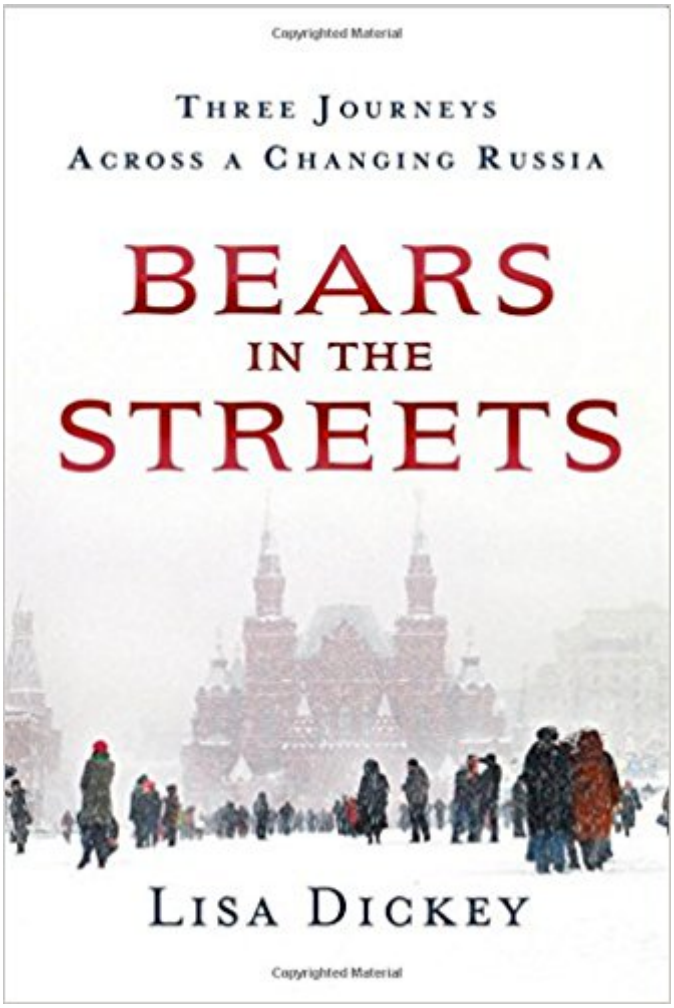
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Bears In The Streets: Three Journeys Across A Changing Russia



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Synopsis

One of Bustle’s 17 of the Best Nonfiction Books Coming in January 2017 and Men’s Journal’s 7 Best Books of January"Brilliant, real and readable." Ã¢â ¬â ¢former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright**A USA Today "New and Noteworthy" Book**Lisa Dickey traveled across the whole of Russia three timesÃ¢â ¬â ¢in 1995, 2005 and 2015Ã¢â ¬â ¢making friends in eleven different cities, then coming back again and again to see how their lives had changed. Like the acclaimed British documentary series Seven Up!, she traces the ups and downs of ordinary peopleÃ¢â ¬â„¢s lives, in the process painting a deeply nuanced portrait of modern Russia. From the caretakers of a lighthouse in Vladivostok, to the Jewish community of Birobidzhan, to a farmer in Buryatia, to a group of gay friends in Novosibirsk, to a wealthy family in Chelyabinsk, to a rap star in Moscow, Dickey profiles a wide cross-section of people in one of the most fascinating, dynamic and important countries on Earth. Along the way, she explores dramatic changes in everything from technology to social norms, drinks copious amounts of vodka, and learns firsthand how the Russians really feel about Vladimir Putin. Including powerful photographs of people and places over time, and filled with wacky travel stories, unexpected twists, and keen insights, Bears in the Streets offers an unprecedented on-the-ground view of Russia today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"When Lisa went to live in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1995...she had no idea she would be drawn back again and again...Ten years later, she returned to revisit the people she had met. And in 2015 returned yet again...Dickey integrates all three visits in 12 chapters." Ã¢â ¬â ¢The New York Times

Book Review"Fascinating...[Dickey’s] conversational tone, combined with insightful background and pithy observations of her subject-friendsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ attitudes and lifestyles, provides a readable blend of modern comparative history and a reporterÃ¢â ¬â„¢s curiosity." Ã¢â ¬â ¢The Virginian Pilot"A deeply intimate portrait of modern Russia that spans twenty years and whose mixture of humor, history, and emotions from a faraway land stay with you long after the bookÃ¢â ¬â„¢s end." Ã¢â ¬â ¢The Huffington Post"[Dickey’s] observations are keen, and it is poignant to read how swiftly and profoundly this fascinating country has changed." Ã¢â ¬â ¢StarTribuneÃ¢â ¬Å“[An] excellent book...Bears In the Streets is an accessible and enjoyable read, and especially relevant in a time when Russia is in the news." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Curve MagazineÃ¢â ¬Å“With our new president and his controversial goodwill toward Vladimir Putin, the timing of this travelogue seems prescient.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢USA TodayÃ¢â ¬Å“An invaluable perspective on RussiaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s changes over the last three decades. But it is DickeyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s easy and enjoyable style, full of insider observations and self-deprecating humor, that make this an un-put-downable read.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Russian Life Magazine"Delightful...DickeyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s travelogue is truly heartwarming, drawing strength from the honesty and openness of the people she visits and revisits and opening windows on the opinions of the Russian people on nearly everything, from homosexuality to Putin. Fascinating and a balm to readers enduring the current xenophobic plague." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Booklist"Lisa Dickey has chosen an inspired way to tell a most fascinating story about the evolution of modern Russia. Bears in the Streets is brilliant, real and readable." Ã¢â ¬â ¢former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright"[A] spirited account..that reveals true Russian personality." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Kirkus Reviews"A delightful travelogue...[and] a study of a culture and its values, and how people come to believe the truths they live by." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Headbutler.com"[Dicky’s] observations are keen, and it is poignant to read how swiftly and profoundly this fascinating country has changed." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Minneapolis Star Tribune"Lisa DickeyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s sharply realized memoir is a meditation on time, friendship and the boundaries we create as well as those we cross. In thoughtful, often-hilarious, and always page-turning prose, she brings us with her across Russia over the course of twenty years. At a moment where the incurious lead political conversations, Dickey’s simple act of engagement is a radical one." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Sarah Wildman, journalist and author of Paper Love: Searching for the Girl My Grandfather Left BehindÃ¢â ¬Å“Dickey weaves a lively, heartfelt, and engrossing account spanning a dramatic period of Russian history. Her tales from Vladivostok to St. Petersburg remind us of the human element so often obscured by geopolitics Ã¢â ¬â œ an important contribution at a critical moment for Russia and the world.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â œ Ambassador William J. Burns, President, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace"Bears in the

Streets is impossible to put down. Fueled by a deep curiosity and with the skilled eye of a world class journalist, Dickey peels back superficial stereotypes and shares her discoveries and her surprises." Ã¢â ¬â ¢ Rick Smolan, New York Times bestselling author and creator of the "Day in the Life" book series

Lisa Dickey is an author and ghostwriter who has helped write seventeen published nonfiction books, including eight New York Times bestsellers. Dickey began her career in St. Petersburg, Russia, writing articles for The Moscow Times and USA Today. She is an accomplished storyteller, appearing at live events such as the Moth Grand Slam. She lives in Los Angeles.

Not only is this a topical and interesting look at everyday Russians unfolding over the course of 20 years, it’s a great read. The author is an insightful and entertaining storyteller. The stories and characters are compelling and the writing is top-notch.It’s full of hilarious and heartbreaking encounters that were solidly relatable on the most human level. It seems that not all Russians are reflections of their leader, just as not all Americans are reflections of ours.I also appreciated that the book is written in such a way that it’s easy to pick up, read a story and then return for another later-except that I couldn’t stop. It’s that compelling.

I was in Moscow and St Petersburg in 1995 at the same time as the author. After over a decade in the US Navy during the Cold War and numerous operational and didactic indoctrinations to hate the soviet regime, its military and people, I still found myself drawn to the tenacity and pride of the Russians I met. I didn’t see what I had been "told" to see regarding their dislike of America, nor did I ever feel at all threatened by these same people who were helping me in my efforts to successfully adopt a Russian orphan. Their efforts were sincere and heartfelt for the welfare of those caught in the aftermath of uncertainty at that time and doomed to the streets and poverty without the opportunity for another life. Over twenty years later, the comment made by these citizens in the author’s journeys "about wanting to just be left alone" resonates at a personal level for me, but understates the tremendous sacrifices they made to survive and ultimately thrive in the metamorphosis. My rationale for being there, my fascination with the culture and heritage, and this precious gift of my child growing into adulthood, and their love and devotion to a new way of life also mirrors the 20 years plus covered in the book, though all of ours were lived here in the US. The authors journey and observations are inspirational, heart warming, and at times amusing, but all the while insightful to self, humility and humanity’s real achievement to walk a mile in their shoes, and to

really know, and love someone deemed by all others as different from "yourself." Life doesn’t come from existing as self, it is found in our ability to co-exist with, understand, embrace, and nurture another’s "self."

First and foremost, travel writing of any kind is not easy, and great travel writing, harder yet. All too often, the genre breaks down into an author bitching about the vagaries of the real world experience, or perhaps worse, so coloring their prose with carried bias that the experience just isn’t shared well. That said, Lisa Dickey is a great travel writer, and this is a wonderful read.In a time of unprecedented political bluster and saber rattling, this long-term view of real people and lives across Russia is an important vignette for Americans to take in and absorb. Dickey speaks with a clear voice, and the lives of her subjects are ours to know as a result.I’m thrilled to hear that the next 10 year swing is already being planned. That’s a thing well worth staying tuned for.

The book is written from deep experience, with insight, fairness (in my opinion), and humor. I think it would be great reading for anyone planning a first trip to Russia. I like the way in which the material is organized: Each chapter is devoted to a specific place; within each chapter, the author describes her visits in 1995, 2005, and 2015. She connects the information in each chapter so that a description of each visit follows the previous one organically rather than mechanically. My only question to the author would be how she can stand to wait ten years between visits! My last trip there was around the time of hers, in early September 2015. I hope to go again this coming fall, just two years later.

First off, this book is a beautifully written and entertaining journey of a woman discovering how some things change and some don’t as she boldly takes the same trip through Russia for three consequtive decades. There is humor and emotion and the descriptions of far off lands stay with you in the best way. But beyond all that, and perhaps most importantly, this book taps into connections between individual people of all different kinds. And reminds the reader that the individual can be a shining light in this world of political unrest massive divides. It’s a welcome story during such a tumultuous time and a MUST READ!

ÃƒÂ¢Ã ËœÃ â |ÃƒÂ¢Ã ËœÃ â |ÃƒÂ¢Ã ËœÃ â |ÃƒÂ¢Ã ËœÃ â |ÃƒÂ¢Ã ËœÃ â | from George Valko on April 6, 2017I loved it. A great read for both Americans and ...Moments ago I just finished reading your book Bears in the Streets.I loved it. A great read for both Americans and Russians. My

mother’sparents were Volga Germans born in Russia and I’ve done muchgenealogy work tracking and finding and communicating withdescendants of these families all over the world including Russia.It was a real treat to read your travelogue with snap shots in time,three different each ten years apart. A study about people, history,and human adventure.I recommend your book and will pass same on to one of myspecial cousins in Russia whom I believe will enjoy your bookas your personal portal into Russian lives.George Valko

The book was interesting but not what I was looking for, so it is hard for me to review. This book is mostly about the people the author met on her three journeys and while they are interesting I wanted to hear more about the actual journey. By that I mean what it was like traveling thru the country the three different times and what did she see of the country. I wanted to know about the physical trip as well as the people.

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