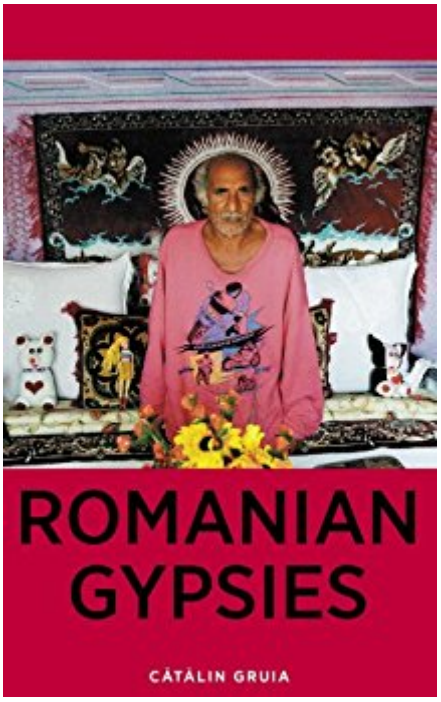
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Romanian Gypsies: 9 True Stories About What ItÃ¢â‚¬â„¢s Like To Be A Gypsy In Romania (Romania Explained To My Friends Abroad Book 3)



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Synopsis

RAW GYPSIES Nine true stories Limbos and another seven or eight Gypsies from Mocirla (Ã¢â ¬Å“The SwampÃ¢â ¬Â•), on the outskirts of Romanian town Buhusi were at old SavaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s pub again last night, gathered around a 2 $ bottle of liqueur. One of them had just come back from Italy: a very big guy, with a tight shirt, with a mean face, with expressionless, predatory eyes that looked you right in the brain. And they were celebrating this interlopÃ¢â ¬â„¢s return home. Then, another one came down from the hill, with clay on his head, dead tired. He had worked all day at sticking together a house with clay for 3 $. And with that 3 $, he bought everyone drinks: Ã¢â ¬Å“Drink up guys, Ã¢â ¬Ëœcause now I have money!Ã¢â ¬Â• The conversation that followed was hypothetical Ã¢â ¬â œ although the most frequently pronounced word was Ã¢â ¬Å“da burliÃ¢â ¬Â• (fuck) Ã¢â ¬â œ about what was better for a Gypsy: to steal and cash in big all at once or to work honestly for close to nothing?Wherever you are in Romania, Ã¢â ¬â œ in any city or village Ã¢â ¬â œ, if you take a 30 minute walk in any direction, youÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll find a community of poor Gypsies.Beside a minority that got rich exploiting barely-legal economic opportunities, for more than two thirds of some 1 million Romanian Gypsies, the tumultuous years following the fall of communism meant a transition towards hopeless poverty, delinquency, and violence. They were among the first laid off during the restructuring of the 1990s and many did not manage to get rehired. About 70% of the Gypsieslive from Minimum Income Guarantee (financial aid from the State) and occasional activities. 80% have no profession. Life in the Swamp Like Mocirla (Ã¢â ¬Å“The SwampÃ¢â ¬Â•), almost every poor Gypsy community is affected by the same Ã¢â ¬Å“shortagesÃ¢â ¬Â• when it comes to:Ã¢â ¬Â¢jobsÃ¢â ¬Â¢incomeÃ¢â ¬Â¢educationÃ¢â ¬Â¢access to medical servicesÃ¢â ¬Â¢identity cardsÃ¢â ¬Â¢property titlesÃ¢â ¬Â¢dirty, overcrowded houses Who are these Gypsies? This is a story about what itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s like to be a Gypsy (Roma) in Romania. A story told by the Gypsies themselves. For their protection (and my own), the names of the places and of the characters have been changed.Over 14 hours of interviews were edited for concision and clarity. Certain regionalisms, flagrant language and grammar mistakes were straightened out here and there. Author Catalin Gruia is a veteran journalist who has written and reported for over 10 years for the Romanian edition of National Geographic.Cover Photo by Bogdan Croitoru* You can find behind the scenes information about Gruia's books -->https://www.facebook.com/ByCatalinGruia

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Customer Reviews

This brief tome is more in the nature of a pamphlet....the most informative part is at the end, describing how gypsy clans specialized in occupations, from the medieval period, i.e. tin working or fiddlers, and how this evolved (2 pages). This is very centered on Romania, and of questionable value for anyone interested in general information concerning Gypsies. It is mainly brief (2-3 page per each) conversation with inhabitants of a slum area populated by Gypsies. I gathered that many Gypsies in Romania had assimilated, and that 3 had served as Prime Minister, since Cosecu had been overthrown, so to an American, this is not very informative. Perhaps the intended reader is European. At any rate, as there is little background information provided, it is of little value to anyone not already informed.

These fascinating portraits of Romanian Gypsies need to be fleshed out. The book features very brief transcripts of Interviews the author conducted at a poor Gypsy village. They are all spellbinding, but very short. The writer needs to tell us more and include photographs.

This book is extremely short. I read it in less than a couple hours. It had many short interviews with some Roma listening to how they viewed their life. It also had a very concise history of the Roma in the back but with no sources to the information. It is a decent read for someone who just wants a very broad stroke understand of the life of gypsies in Romania. Not recommend for anyone who is doing in-depth research on the Roma.

I've always been fascinated with the history of gypsies. Their entire culture is so different from most other cultures, so I was hoping to learn more about their nomadic lifestyles. The book is very short and each gypsy interviewed, left me wondering more about their life.

This book was very interesting. It was nice to read a first hand account of how Gypsies live and are treated. I didn't find it depressing as it made it's point without dragging it out. The book was short but made up for it by including a brief and interesting section of history of Gypsies going back many generations.

Well written, but much too short. The stories are very brief and woefully lacking in detail and development. It left me wanting to know much more. As it is, it is little more than a pamphlet. Still, I found myself caring very deeply for these abused people.

Short stories that go by really smoothly. Very interesting and deep, illustrates well the daily life of the gypsies and show the less known side of the story, their version and their suffering.

The stories were good, but too brief. The lives of the Gypsies in Romania is like an iceberg. Only the tip was touched here.

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