

(Free read ebook) Stalin's Nose: Travels Around the Bloc

## Stalin's Nose: Travels Around the Bloc

*Rory MacLean*

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#3636791 in Books 1993-02Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.50 x 6.00 x 1.00l, #File Name: 0316542393233 pages | File size: 42.Mb

**Rory MacLean : Stalin's Nose: Travels Around the Bloc** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stalin's Nose: Travels Around the Bloc:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. funny in a droll Peter Sellers kind of wayBy Michael E. NaderThe USSR has collapsed. The Berlin Wall is down. And a pig fell out of a tree (!) and killed a man. His wife remembers he wanted to be buried in Slovakia, an ex-Soviet state. So she, her nephew, the pig, and the woman's estranged sister (political opposites; she's a communist, the sister is a democrat) set out in a Russian Trabant automobile with a coffin tied on the roof and travel to Slovakia. Witty, observant, funny in a droll Peter Sellers kind of way, unusual, and very enjoyable. I'll even read it again.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Unique post communist Eastern European travels.By Rey M.An entertaining and informative narrative if you are interested in European politics.1 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Fascinated,bothered, bewildered, so far...By A CustomerAbout a third of the way into the book which I began reading during an IVP test for distraction purposes. I am feeling more confused as I go but largely because my historical and geographic knowledge of the region is very limited. I think this is good for me to know(in a hair shirt sort of way). I've read novels set (approximately)in the region and have begun to feel as though I have strayed back into one of them but behind the scenes, drifting through the background unconnected to the story of the novel. However I will continue reading. I am in its thrall, though mystified and chastened by my ignorance.

An Englishman visiting relatives in East Germany recounts his experiences as he sets off from there to explore the

ruined Soviet empire, Prague, Budapest, and other areas, learning what life had been like under decades of communism.

From Publishers Weekly The British author proves to be more novelist than journalist here, leaving readers without referents to guide them through thickets of symbolism. For example, what is one to make of the death of MacLean's beloved Russian uncle Peter, a high-level KGB operative who, while already mortally ill, was killed by a falling pig in his Potsdam yard hard by the now-crumbling Wall, which once served as his garden trellis? And how did the lethal pig come to be called Winston? (Named after MacLean's esteemed countryman who made a bad deal at Yalta?) MacLean has been summoned into the twilight-of-empire bloc by his widowed aunt Zita to attend Peter's funeral, and also to escort her to Budapest to replace her lost false teeth. As they journey in Zita's unreliable auto, accompanied by the Communist pig Winston, we meet relatives and friends, believers and the enslaved. Providing the plot for MacLean's morality tale are the travelers' detours to Prague, to Zita's family homestead in Slovakia--where her antagonistic sister Vera, politically estranged from her for 40 years, has come to bury the recently released body of her RAF pilot husband, killed in WW II--through Poland and Romania and ultimately to Moscow. The book is best read as though it is fiction, its black humor and poignancy made even more affecting by its abstractions. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal This is a delightful romp around Eastern Europe, written just after the wall came tumbling down. Englishman MacLean, who was visiting relatives in East Germany at the time, embarks on a journey of rediscovery and welcomes readers along for the ride. Accompanied by his recently widowed Aunt Zita and her pet pig, Winston, he wends his way from the former East Berlin to Prague to Budapest, where an old servant digs up a bronze nose from a statue of Stalin pulled down during the 1956 uprising. MacLean's descriptions of the little group's rambles across the former Communist bloc is informative, insightful, and entrancing. His initial foray into travel writing emphatically unravels the lives of our long-lost neighbors to the east. An armchair traveler's delight, this book is definitely recommended for all travel collections.- Jane Gilliland, Carnegie Mellon Univ., Pittsburgh Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.