

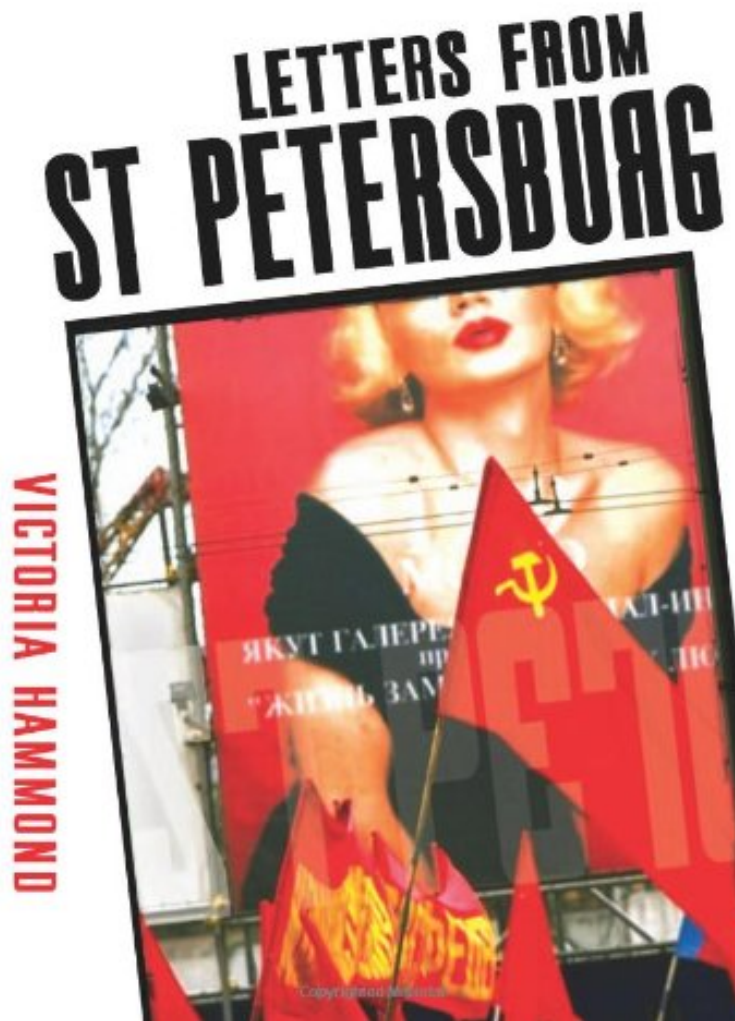
[Read free ebook] Letters from St. Petersburg

Letters from St. Petersburg

Victoria Hammond

**Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*

Copyrighted Material



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#3345375 in Books Allen n Unwin 2005-10-28Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.25 x .97 x 5.50l, .77
#File Name: 1741143381312 pages | File size: 71.Mb

Victoria Hammond : Letters from St. Petersburg before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Letters from St. Petersburg:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating MemoirBy Violet BlackVictoria Hammond gives us an intriguing insite into life in St Petersburg, Russia, where she lived for about a year. She didn't know the language, or anyone there, but had a few contacts given to her by a fellow art curator. Everyday urban life in Russia is not a topic I was acquainted with, and Hammond's descriptions of the strange and the ordinary, and the friendship offered her by strangers makes an insightful read.I was interested to learn about St Petersburg's historical connections with Europe

and the affects of perestroika - strange gaps in the law and the Russian mafia taking up the slack of what was formerly run by the state. Being an art curator, she also gives an insight into the world of art and curators and artists, who eek out a living. My only criticism- the photo selection was odd. Hammond describes a scene where she takes the wrong bus and gets horribly lost. She can't read the signs, can't speak a word of Russian and is confronted with mile after identical mile of anonymous tower blocks- I wanted a photo even though it wouldn't have been pretty. A great foray into an area of literature that's thin on the ground. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Well-written, but many inaccuracies. By Ivan W. Fuller. Ms. Hammond has written an entertaining and often insightful memoir of her time in St. Petersburg, but I was constantly frustrated by her inaccuracies. There are scattered, unintentional mis-spellings (or mispronunciations) of Russian phrase ("La" instead of "Ya" when referring to the English word "I") and some of her location names and travelling directions are off. She refers to the Moika Canal, but there is no such thing. It's a river. These little slips may sound petty, but to the knowledgeable reader, they tend to eat into the author's credibility. I also got impatient with her inability (and disinterest) to learn the Cyrillic alphabet. She recounts several incidents of getting hopelessly lost in the city or on the metro...times when knowing how to at least decipher the Cyrillic language would have helped her. When I bring my students to Russia, the first thing they have to do is prove that they have memorized the alphabet. It isn't that hard if you're motivated. Ms. Hammond's lack of motivation to do so added to my annoyance. All of that said...I still found the intimate, behind-the-scenes stories of her friendships with the people of Pietr to be very heartwarming. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Entertaining read. By Yvonne Kirk. An Australian soends a few months in St Petersburg, getting to know locals even though she speaks no russian. Mostly about the art world, with reasonably well to do russians, it was a delight to read.

With its shimmering palaces and decaying mansions, enchanted forests and basements full of Soviet art, the history of St. Petersburg comes alive in this memoir of one art devotee's journey to reveal the strength and wonder behind Russia's crumbling facades. These writings reflect the author's experiences in the artistic landscapes she inhabits, from the eerie beauty of Dostoevski's streets on a white night to stories of struggling artists and dignified intellectuals eking out existences in claustrophobic studio apartments. A compelling immersion into the Russia of today, this travel narrative shows St. Petersburg to be a city of ghosts and illusions where past and present and reality and fiction are inextricably fused.

"Vivid, sensitive, and intelligent." —Library Journal