

(Free pdf) Looking for George

Looking for George

Helena Drysdale

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Helena Drysdale : Looking for George before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Looking for George:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A heartbreaking biography / memoirBy aliedThe author visits late 70's Romania with two school chums, almost on a lark. The country is mired in the brutality and paranoia of the despotic Ceausescu regime. Despite this, these three university students have a fine time and eventually run into George Cupar, a young Orthodox priest with a sensitive, artistic bent. Upon her return to Britain, Helena Drysdale

receives long, rambling letters from George, detailing the torture of his daily existence, his hatred for the government and his yearning for freedom of expression and spirit. One day, the letters stop. Cupar begins to fade from Drysdale's mind as her life begins to follow a conventional path. But more than a decade later, she begins to wonder what happened to George. This book is the tale of her search for him in Romania, filled with remembered moments from that late 70's trip. It's not a happy story. The book does a fine job of portraying some vision of the everyday horrors of the Ceausescu era. It also manages to stitch together enough detail of George to provide some insight into his personal life and turmoil, though - much like the photo on the cover - there's no denying the blurriness of this depiction. I took from this book many things. One of them is the inherent sadness in some aspects of youthful ignorance, which is only understood with the acquisition of age and wisdom. Another is the difficulty in coming to the rescue of a person who seems almost fated for disaster. It's a book about the often frail state of human existence. It's a truly great book. Drysdale manages to convey a great deal of emotion, while maintaining just enough objectivity to make to allow the reader to become fully absorbed into the story. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good service, thank you! By lee sandberg This book is fascinating, a beautifully written documentary about Helena Drysdale's travel back to Romania to understand the situation in the country she visited as a teenager.

Travelling with friends through Romania in 1979, Helena Drysdale met George Cupar, an Orthodox priest-poet. They drank wine in Transylvanian forests and, avoiding the secret police, camped together beneath the Carpathian moon. When she returned home, George wrote her letters full of criticism of the Romanian regime, and asked her to marry him and to help him escape. Abruptly the letters stopped. After the revolution in 1989 Helena Drysdale returned to Romania, a country trapped in a labyrinth of post-Communist paranoia, in search of George. 'This real-life search for a lost face through the cruel and frightened maze of Ceausescu's Romania is a moving, beautifully told, and haunting narrative' Patrick Leigh Fermor 'An intriguing and unusual book, shot through with poignant memories: at once detective story, travelogue, portrait of post-Communist Romania and tribute to a remarkable young man. Helena Drysdale is someone who travels thoughtfully, not just with an open mind but with an active conscience too' Independent on Sunday 'Beautifully written and bristling with dramatic tension, this is one of those rare books that, having started, you really can't put down' Marie Claire