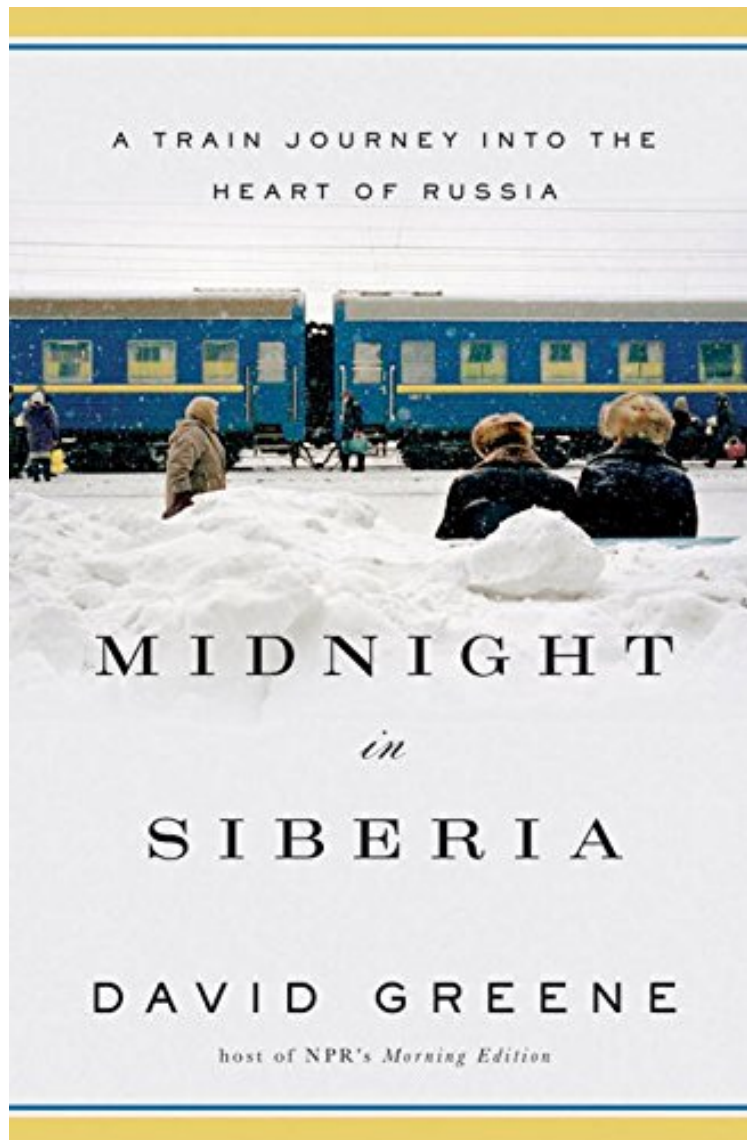


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Midnight in Siberia: A Train Journey into the Heart of Russia

David Greene

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David Greene : Midnight in Siberia: A Train Journey into the Heart of Russia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Midnight in Siberia: A Train Journey into the Heart of Russia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Buy this book Read it...WonderfulBy Rochelle RosenI read this book while on the Trans-Siberian Railway Express Trip that David Greene took was writing about. It was fabulous to read about his experiences while I was experiencing the same trip . I recommend the book and I recommend the trip

through Road Scholar....amazing train trip over 5000+ miles, from China , thru Mongolia, Siberia, over the Ural Mts, across Northern Russia into Moscow.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An intimate portrayal of life in RussiaBy Kindle CustomerVery interesting read. An inside look at Russia from an American perspective. The only issue I have with this book is that it reads like a book of short stories. Nothing ties it together beside the fact that the author recounts his experiences. A common thread or theme would have made it a better read. Greene tells tales from 2 journeys plus stories from when he lived in Russia while working for NPR. Nonetheless a very vivid account of modern day life in Russia. He describes Russian attitude remarkably.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Take a Plane InsteadBy RichAnyone looking to get a "view from the train" will be sorely disappointed. It seems Mr. Greene's purpose in relating his adventure (?) was to show us that underneath all their initial gruffness, the Russian people are warm and drink a lot of vodka. Travelling with the author is not unpleasant; it's just not very satisfying. About 60% of the way through the book, the author makes a comment that he has suffered through a score of hardships on his journey - unfortunately, he didn't seem to take the time to give the reader a good idea of what these were. Rather than giving us a personal insight into the people, the author has just given us a first-hand account. It's okay but it's neither entertaining nor enlightening.

Travels with NPR host David Greene along the Trans-Siberian Railroad capture an overlooked, idiosyncratic Russia in the age of Putin.Far away from the trendy cafés, designer boutiques, and political protests and crackdowns in Moscow, the real Russia exists.Midnight in Siberia chronicles David Greene's journey on the Trans-Siberian Railway, a 6,000-mile cross-country trip from Moscow to the Pacific port of Vladivostok. In quadruple-bunked cabins and stopover towns sprinkled across the country's snowy landscape, Greene speaks with ordinary Russians about how their lives have changed in the post-Soviet years.These travels offer a glimpse of the new Russia?a nation that boasts open elections and newfound prosperity but continues to endure oppression, corruption, a dwindling population, and stark inequality.We follow Greene as he finds opportunity and hardship embodied in his fellow train travelers and in conversations with residents of towns throughout Siberia.We meet Nadezhda, an entrepreneur who runs a small hotel in Ishim, fighting through corrupt layers of bureaucracy every day. Greene spends a joyous evening with a group of babushkas who made international headlines as runners-up at the Eurovision singing competition. They sing Beatles covers, alongside their traditional songs, finding that music and companionship can heal wounds from the past. In Novosibirsk, Greene has tea with Alexei, who runs the carpet company his mother began after the Soviet collapse and has mixed feelings about a government in which his family has done quite well. And in Chelyabinsk, a hunt for space debris after a meteorite landing leads Greene to a young man orphaned as a teenager, forced into military service, and now figuring out if any of his dreams are possible.Midnight in Siberia is a lively travel narrative filled with humor, adventure, and insight. It opens a window onto that country's complicated relationship with democracy and offers a rare look into the soul of twenty-first-century Russia. map

"[An] epic journey by rail." - Andrew McCarthy, New York Times Book "In this picaresque story of adventure, David Greene reaches beyond Putin's Kremlin across Siberia to show us Russian life in the Raw?the gritty stoicism, surprising warmth and generosity, black humor, and resilience of the narod, the average people. A storyteller with a human touch, Greene finds Russians tested by tragedy and war as he joins them in their cramped apartments, jammed trains, and gulping beer and pickled horse sausage in their steam baths, facing an uncertain future with an unexpected streak of inner wildness. His Russians are stolidly patriotic and, even now, drawn mostly to strong leaders, resigned to tough justice and preferring stability and harsh rule to the chaotic uncertainties of democracy, their personal lives 'full of poetry, pain, and laughter.'" - Hedrick Smith, author of *The Russians and Who Stole the American Dream*"Greene is a great storyteller, and what a story he has to tell. A fascinating and thought-provoking journey deep into Russia's physical vastness and soul. Greene's landscape is inhabited by a cast of characters that light up both and would have made Anton Chekhov proud. A first-rate tale that puts you aboard the Trans-Siberian Railroad on the journey of a lifetime." - Aaron David Miller, distinguished scholar, Wilson Center, and author of *The End of Greatness: Why America Can't Have (and Doesn't Want) Another Great President*"Beautifully written... The sharply observed vignettes, combined with the moving, elegiac quality of the prose make it a hard book to put down. David Greene's travels provide insights and context for some of the more dramatic recent events in Russia that will appeal to both the casual traveler and the seasoned observer." - Fiona Hill, coauthor of *Mr. Putin: Operative in the Kremlin* and director of the Center on the United States and Europe at the Brookings Institution"Complex... thought-provoking." - Publishers Weekly"Describe[s] the Russia of the vast interior.... An impressionistic book, a book about people along the way." - Bruce Ramsey, Seattle Times"A mesmerizing, confounding, comforting and thought-provoking book." - Kevin Begos, Associated PressAbout the AuthorDavid Greene is cohost of NPR's Morning Edition. He is NPR's former Moscow bureau chief and has spent more than a decade covering politics and events from the White House and abroad. He lives in Washington, DC, with his wife, Rose, a restaurant owner and fellow traveler.