

Motherland

Rosamund Bartlett

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Rosamund Bartlett : Motherland before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Motherland:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Another Russia in the eyes of a very sensitive photographer By Marco Paoluzzo Michel Simon managed to travel through Russia during one year. His pictures describe an unknown land. Of course, it is a foreigner's eye with a Westerner view but it says a lot about the country. Incredible beautiful pictures and a lot af meetings with Russian people. Have a look, you wan't regret it. 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Lens on the Russian soul By Glen Cox A friend sent me a copy of "Motherland" as a gift, knowing that I had spent eight years in Russia prior to returning to a more predictable, "normal" (boring) suburban American life two years ago. I have not been back to Russia, since, though my wife is Russian, and two of our children were born there. As time passes, memories of the Russia I became a part of begin to fade; images of the people I met and places I visited begin to blur. But what time and a failing memory have taken away, Simon Roberts' "Motherland" has helped to restore. Russia is not as tragic or desparate as the nightly news would have us believe, and much of what Roberts in his travels with his wife has managed to capture is the softer, more human side of the country that would simply never make the editor's cut. While some of his photographs do capture the desparation of a country in painful, often violent transition, he also uncovers the hope and dignity of the people they encountered on their journey. The honesty he is able to coax from his subjects and onto the page is very unusual. What passes for ordinary or every-day in Russia is what for me in many ways is the real Russia, and Roberts manages masterly to capture the true essence of the country, with all its warts and beauty. Roberts and his wife spent a year traveling throughout the vast country, riding trains, mixing with locals, and going to places that ordinary tourists - or even those of us who spent most of our time in the expatriate ghetto of Moscow - would never dream of venturing. In the process, they seem to have come away with an intimate understanding - and empathy - for the people and places that make up "the other" 99% of the

country. Roberts' photographs seem to be taken from the inside looking out, not the other way around. In the process, he has, for me, captured in this book the essence of what is so often referred to as the "Russian soul." It's what I miss the most. 9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating Insights By K. Johnson Motherland is a fascinating insight into Russian life and people. As someone who has never been to Russia, I was particularly impressed with Roberts' accessible and open style, which allowed me to experience the surprising diversity and beauty of Russia from the comfort of home. I know that Roberts and his wife spent a year traveling across this enormous territory and their knowledge, sympathy and regard for the country really shines through. The photographs are sensitive but unsentimental, honest but never critical. For me, Roberts' Motherland opened a door onto another world; I haven't seen a better photographic representation of contemporary Russia.

The result of photographer Simon Roberts' one year journey, Motherland is a bold visual statement about the nature of contemporary Russia 15 years after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Roberts traveled throughout Russia between July 2004 and August 2005, making pictures in more than 200 locations and creating one of the most extensive, comprehensive photographic accounts of this vast country by a Westerner. His images are not clichéd representations of a Russia ground down by poverty and despair; rather, Roberts presents a beautiful, awe-inspiring land with a dignified people empowered by a growing optimism and a deeply rooted sense of national esteem. Intimate and revealing portraits of contemporary Russians show us a diverse people united by a sense of common identity, while breathtaking landscapes reveal the complexity and uniqueness of the country.

About the Author Born in London in 1974, Roberts studied Human Geography at the University of Sheffield. His photographs have been widely published, including by the Sunday Times Magazine, Guardian Magazine, Details, Der Spiegel and Le Monde. Among many awards, Simon won the Ian Parry scholarship in 1998. He lives in Brighton with his wife, Sarah, and daughter Jemima.