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## The big Red train ride

*Eric Newby*

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**Eric Newby : The big Red train ride** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The big Red train ride:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. FascinatingBy MirandaI found this fascinating because of all the little annoyances the writer had to deal with being accompanied on his trip with a government official. It was a little cynical but it was done in a humorous way.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Making dreams come true on the Trans-SiberianBy prietokIf you are planning on riding the rails on the Trans-Siberian Railroad, this book will warm up your engine and give you a realistic idea of what to expect.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. One of the funniest travel writers ever...By NyiNyaThis was my first Eric Newby book, and I was hooked. Newby and wife Wanda travel throughout the Soviet Union searching hopefully (and often in vain) for a decent meal, a warm blanket, and helpful railroad staff. They never really succeed, but the journey they bring us along on is worth the trouble. It's just plain funny. Newby doesn't lob jokes at the reader, but tosses them off underhand for the most part, so the humor creeps up on you. He knows how to go for the bellylaugh, but most of the book has a dryer touch. Newby doesn't go for cheap shots, he's not mean spirited in the least, but his semi-sympathetic, long-suffering, and sometimes hung-over take on exploring the side roads of Russia is addictive fun. I have now followed eric and Wanda on many journeys and am still enthralled. Discovering an unread Newby is like getting a surprise birthday gift. This is a great introduction into the globetrotting adventures of Eric and Wanda.

From Moscow to the Pacific on the Trans-Siberian Railway ("the big red train ride") is an eight-day journey of nearly 6000 miles. Eric Newby made this trip with his wife, an official guide and a photographer. Harrassed by the Soviet

conductor, hindered at every stage by bureaucratic officials, off his feed from bad food and worse drinks, Newby still managed to gather a wealth of detail about life in the USSR. And, most importantly, his sense of humor never deserted him. "The best kind of travel book....It awakened frosty demons in me, and memories I had thought forgotten." --Paul Theroux

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