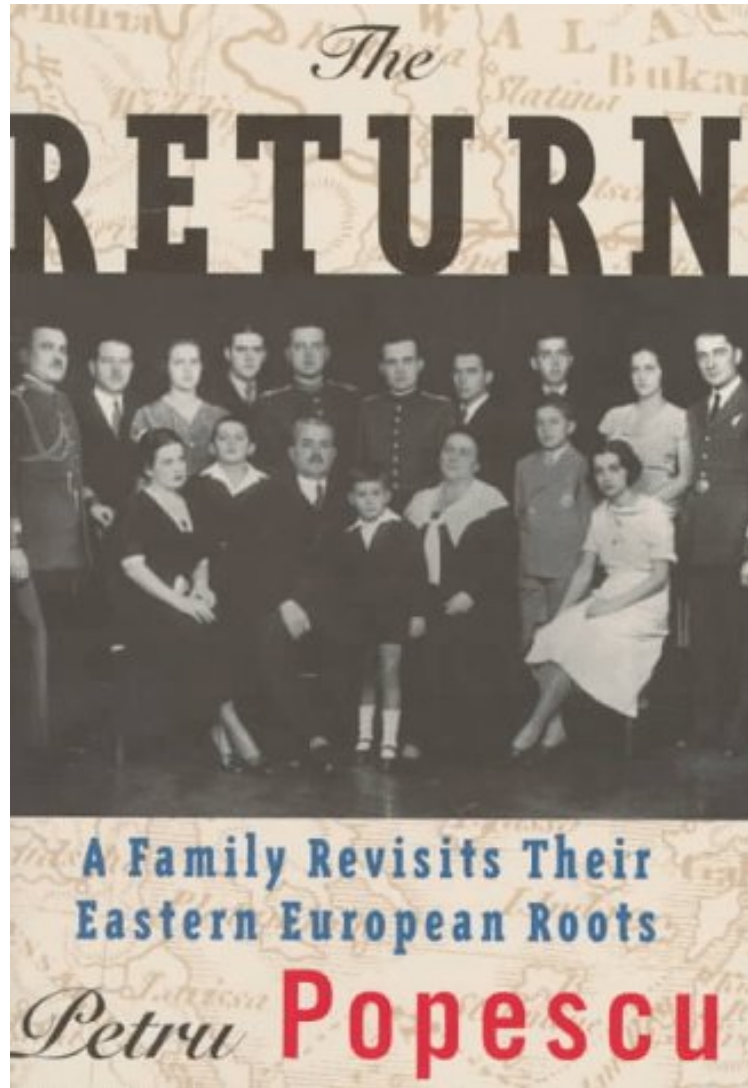


(Free) The Return

The Return

Petru Popescu

*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1957075 in Books Grove Pr 1997-08Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.75 x 6.25 x 1.25l, #File Name: 0802116132378 pages | File size: 32.Mb

Petru Popescu : The Return before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Return:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Jeff BaileyVery good novel, interesting story. Thanks10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Worth ReadingBy A CustomerI would like to thank Petru Popescu for writing this book and for so openly sharing his experiences of, and feelings about, life in Romania. Having several Romanian friends and acquaintances, Popescu's book filled in a lot of blanks for me, and answered questions that have sometimes proven much too painful for my friends to answer. I have researched Romania's

communist and recent history fairly extensively in the course of my work, and have not come across anything that has been as informative on a personal level as *The Return*. Other reviewers here have noted that Popescu comes across as a bit full of himself. I agree. On page 220 he notes that his wife, whom he obviously loves very much, has been "imprinted by motherhood, but (is) still thin." (If my husband paid me a compliment like that, I would throw all of his clothes out on the lawn. Who "imprinted" her, exactly?) He also informs the reader that he is talented, published, filmed, televised, well-known, flies first class, owns a Mercedes, resides in the 90210 zip code, and has enjoyed many a sexual escapade to boot. While Popescu may lack modesty and his womanizing may strike some readers as a bit disturbing, this book is worth reading. Popescu has spared nothing in displaying the details of his humanity both within and apart from communism. It is a story that should be heard.³ of 5 people found the following review helpful. The banality of tyranny/evil; the process of self redemption
By A Customer
There were two components of this book that decreased its emotional impact and its potential i.e. : (1) its easy going American Apple Pie style and (2) the time spent on wallpapering personal insecurity with self accomplishment. Here is a man who is trying to put his Self together after living through the mental aberrations as well as the physical and spiritual confinement of Communism. Moreover, first he has inherited, into his very 'genetic' makeup, the ghost of Romania past (its senseless barbarism, its deviant Fascism, its glorious struggle, its bickering and Balkan feuding, its honor and genteel socialization) transferred through stories from his relatives their personal family history, second he has had to attain his manhood in a dysfunctional family and third, after defection to wanderings in the garden of the American dream, he marries the post war daughter of Shoah survivors. All these elements are set with a backdrop of Romanians who, as a people/culture, cannot look truths in the eye and seek redemption. A setting for a tale of character development and self discovery par excellence! So much for potential! If one mentally subtracts the 'style' and the 'wallpaper' impediments out of this book then one is left with a picture of Romania the country/the people, the day to day impact of Communism, the scary banality of tyranny evil and the subsequent process of deifying the tyrant. Food for thought! Food for thought! I only wish I could also have had the tale of personal redemption too!

Romania's most famous literary ex-patriate traces the story of his family's escape from communism, his marriage to the Jewish daughter of survivors of the Auschwitz concentration camp, and his and his wife's eventual return to their homelands."

From Library Journal
In this stirring memoir, exiled author Popescu (*Almost Adam*, LJ 5/15/96), who directed the film *Death of an Angel*, richly details his life in Romania, his defection to America, and his journey back to his homeland after the Romanian revolution. Popescu returns to Eastern Europe with his American wife, the daughter of Holocaust survivors, to rediscover his past in order for him to understand better his life and destiny as a writer and for his wife to understand what her parents suffered. A popular young author in his homeland, Popescu relates how the government and Communist leader Nicolae Ceausescu himself reacted to his work and how he struggled to live freely. He also craftily blends his story with his wife's to create powerful images of the importance of family. A remarkable and fascinating book; highly recommended.--Jill Jaracz, Chicago
Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From Kirkus sAn ,migr,'s account of his return to post-Communist Romania exudes his own and his native land's irrepressible personality. Despite achieving personal and professional success in America after defecting from Romania, novelist and screenwriter Popescu (*Beaming*, 1991) continued to be plagued by his past, his defection, and a sense of having betrayed his Romanian readers. More private ghosts include his late twin brother, stricken by polio as a teenager; his writer-father, who walked out on the family after the brother's death; and a selfish mother who dictated the terms of her remaining son's life. With Ceausescu's downfall, Popescu made the fraught decision to travel to Romania as a journalist. The trip proved to be an emotional roller coaster, plunging both Popescu and his wife, Iris, into moments of dread, joy, despair, and reconciliation. From its opening line, "Listen to me. Listen to me," the reader is plunged into Popescu's urgent and energetic confessional style. Seemingly little has been omitted from his story, which at times meanders off track to touch on: the saga of the Popescu family; his marriage to Iris, a child of Holocaust survivors; Romanian history; the intricacies of post-Ceausescu politics; his wife's return to her parents' native Czechoslovakia; and finally, a self-indulgent glimpse of the machinations of Hollywood movie executives. *The Return* is inseparable from Popescu's unique literary voice and from his overpowering but compelling personality. But his wife also is a central figure. A rare subject of joy and hope in a book otherwise laden with family tensions and disappointments, Iris supplies an uplifting counterargument to *The Return*'s pessimistic thesis: that "patriotism . . . comes from family, and if it's tortured and incomplete, it means that the family was tortured and incomplete." A moving, albeit verbose, very East European testimony about roots, the writer's life, and personal discovery. --
Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.
From the Inside Flap
In 1989, Romania exploded in revolution. Suddenly the borders were open and those who had fled Nicolae Ceausescu's tyranny could now revisit their roots. Among them was Petru Popescu, once Romania's most famous opposition writer, now a best-selling American author and successful Hollywood filmmaker. This book is the story of his journey. It is also a fascinating historical account of growing up under "ordinary Communism." Witnessing political killings, coming of age in a

regime where even sex was state-regulated, finally tricking Ceausescu himself into giving him the chance to defect, Popescu's odyssey encapsulates many of the major events of the late twentieth century. Popescu's American wife, Iris, is the daughter of Holocaust survivors; thus within one American family are combined two powerful immigrant sagas: survival of Nazism and flight from Communism. Traveling back with his wife to Bucharest, Prague, and other Eastern European cities, the author faces his greatest revelation: the key to understanding the past lies not within the political horror, but within his own childhood and youth. Personal ties reveal themselves as life's most lasting bonds; it is love that provides the material of experience and growth, love between parents and children, within families, and across generations. The secrets of the past are the secrets of what we have loved and how we have protected what we loved. "Petru Popescu has written a gripping tale of self-revelation told against the background of a return visit to Romania, his native country. Having spent two halves of a publicly successful life in both Romania and the United States, Popescu reveals the tortured conflicts that lie just beneath appearances. In the process, he makes visible the complicated links between Psyche and history and his longing for wholeness and sanity. This is a troubling meditation on the mystery of being a Hybrid Man, a species to which I also belong, and which is, paradoxically and uniquely, American."--Andrei Codrescu, author of *The Hole in the Flag: An Exile's Story of Return and Revolution* "The Return teems with life and unforgettable characters.... It is a book about history and personal history, and the way the two have twisted together throughout one life. It is a book about survival, about memory, about love across and within generations."--The Boston Globe "Popescu's insights are politically pertinent as well as emotionally stirring."--Booklist "A remarkable and fascinating book."--Library Journal "A book to make you change your mind about the past. The Return put me in mind of Kapuscinski's *The Shah of Shahs*. So much you thought you understood about the past and didn't. The political turns out to be personal, not just in feminism but in world affairs too, and riveting, hair-raising reading it makes."--Fay Weldon "In this compelling memoir of one man's search for truth and freedom, Petru Popescu brilliantly conveys the pain of remembrance. His journey from life in Communist Romania to defection to America, and ultimately the emotional return to his homeland with his wife, represents a triumph of the human spirit."--Tommy P. Baer, International President, B'nai B'rith "Petru Popescu fled Ceausescu's Romania with little more than his sense of humor, only to find himself caught between the rock of Hollywood, where he eventually became a successful novelist and screenwriter, and the hard place of childhood memories of the repressive Communist state. Then history intervened, the regime fell, and Popescu made the unthinkable voyage home with his American wife. The Return is the savagely funny and ultimately hopeful account of that journey."--John Ashbery Petru Popescu is the best-selling author of *Beaming* and *Almost Adam*. He directed the feature film *Death of an Angel*.