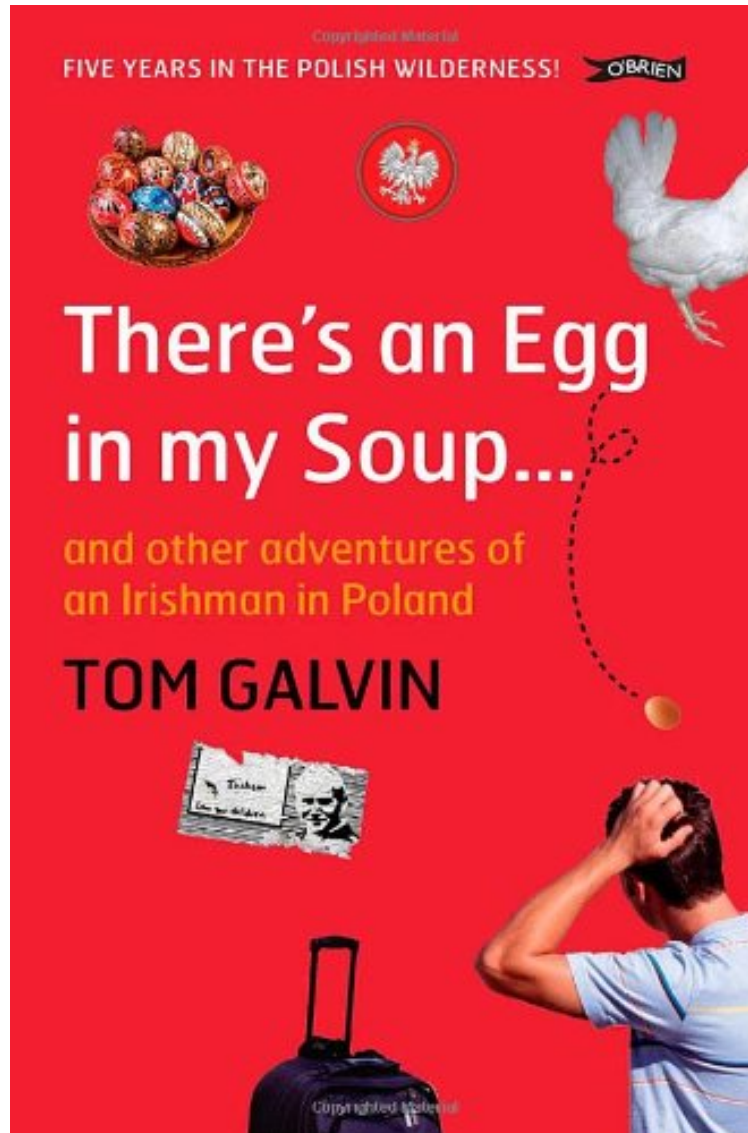


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There's An Egg in my Soup: ... and other adventures of an Irishman in Poland

Tom Galvin

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Tom Galvin : There's An Egg in my Soup: ... and other adventures of an Irishman in Poland before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised There's An Egg in my Soup: ... and other adventures of an Irishman in Poland:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A reasonable memoir about life in Poland in the 1990s By sien There's an Egg in my Soup (2007) by Tom Galvin is an account of living in a rural town 40km East of Warsaw in

the mid 1990s. Galvin went there on a scholarship to teach English and the book is his memoir of what the town and his stay was like. It's not a brilliant book by any stretch but it is quite interesting. Poland 20 years ago was still recovering from Communism and Soviet occupation. It wasn't clear in the early 1990s whether Poland would stay poor and depressed. Today Poland looks rich, successful and dynamic and is one of the great success stories of the end of Soviet Occupation. Galvin's book describes Misk Mozowiecki and his time in the school fairly well. He paints a fair portrait of what the place was like and the way the people were. It's quite warm and funny in parts. It's not a hilarious memoir but nor is it without feeling. If you're interested in Poland and how Eastern Europe fared after the fall of Communism it's worth a read, it's not great literature but it's light, entertaining read. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. and cold herring with a shot of vodka! By J. J. Corona Tom Galvin really captures life in the eastern part of Poland and I was surprised to open the cover and read where he lived since I had been a Peace Corps Volunteer very near his area in Siedlce. For someone who has never been there, he really captures the experience of the rural Polish town. I especially related to the contrasts of the somewhat solitary existence, the long, harsh winters, the homesickness but also the warmth and curiosity of the people, the sense of the incredible history that was not long ago but unlike some parts of Western Europe, feels like yesterday. I laughed out loud with his telling of the herring in oil accompanied by vodka shots which he politely consumed. As he states, these destinations aren't likely to appear in Lonely Planet anytime soon but he combines the stories of his daily life with lots of historical, political, economic, and social factors to tell an entertaining and, I feel, and very accurate picture of life in an area our group referred to as "the Kansas of Poland." 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An egg has been laid By Zelenka Clearly this book makes no great claims for itself and is not abounding in literary ambition, but, by being held out for sale, it calls for the opinion of the marketplace. In physical terms, it is poorly produced on shoddy paper that is a disgrace to publishing. The text is poorly proofread, if at all. The content is, shall we say, idiosyncratic and open to challenge on many fronts. Taken together this is a work to avoid. A stenographic record of someone on a long bus journey recounting to a captive fellow passenger their trip abroad would just about give a sense of the level of narrative sophistication and energy to be found between these covers. Yet it seems some have detected humour in it.

Five years in the Polish wilderness. Queues for groceries, unfathomable bus timetables, inexplicable traditions and truly bizarre soup - this is Poland in the mid-1990s, where Tom Galvin innocently went as a trainee teacher. Without a word of Polish, he is plunged into a strange and rapidly changing culture, as the country shakes off its troubled and complex past and faces the challenges of being a part of modern Europe. Tom spent five years dealing with long and freezing winters, lack of good food, loneliness and hardship, as he discovered the misery as well as the joy of Polish life. He returned in 2007, to find surprising changes to the country that had been his home for the first years of his working life. An interesting and amusing account of living and working abroad, which documents a unique period of Polish history.

Masterly description . . . a gentle, engaging read --The Irish Times Joyous account of our hero floundering . . . he is winningly self-effacing and willingly self-deprecating --Sunday Tribune Great reading --Sunday Business Post About the Author Tom Galvin went to Poland in 1994 to live and teach in a Polish state school for five years. He later worked as a journalist for The Warsaw Voice and Radio Polonia in Warsaw. He now works as Books Editor for the Evening Herald, and as Editor of the Polski Herald supplement. He has written two books for the tourist market The Little Book of Dublin (2004) and That's Cork (2005). He lives in Wicklow with his Polish wife, Asia.