



Radiating through the story is the family's belief in one another and their hope for a better future, despite volatile political events and the necessity of starting over—again and again. In this family memoir, is a story of hope and courage breathing life into the bleak backdrop of war and dispossession..

ODYSSEYA

An Epic Journey from Russia to Australia

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It is a story of a family that travels from as far North as St. Petersburg to a new Province of Herson near the Black Sea, then to the Russian Far East, after that to China; Harbin, then to Shanghai, again back to Harbin and ultimately to Sydney Australia. Along the way are stories of great courage: a family dog who saved Grandmother from a violent hobo; the Soviet gunboat official, distracted by vodka and zakuski while the captain (an uncle) transported his brother's runaway family by boat to Manchuria; and the aunt who tramples the Communist flag and shows her rear end in public, who later becomes a prominent exotic dancer throughout the Far East.

The novel commences with a concise background of Russian culture and history. The trials of the 20th-century Russian Diaspora are intertwined throughout the family's odyssey. The author also includes scrutiny of subjects as diverse as the legendary origins of the Cossacks, Russian train routes, and his time in the Russian Scouting Movement and the Australian Army Engineering Reserves (RAEME). Photographs, genealogical lists and Russian and Cossack songs in translation are but a few of the additional resources included.