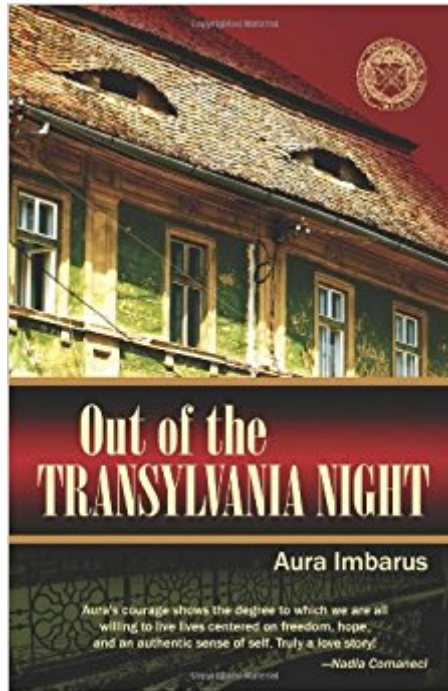




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Out Of The Transylvania Night



Synopsis

'I'd grown up in the land of Transylvania, homeland to Dracula, Vlad the Impaler, and, worse, the Communist dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu-who turned Romania into a land of gray-clad zombies who never dared to show their individuality,' says the author, 'and where neighbors became informants, and the Securitate made people disappear. Daylight empowered the regime to encircle us like starved wolves, and so night had always been the time to steal a bit of freedom. As if bred into our Transylvanian blood, we were like vampires who came to life after sundown!' Dr. Aura Imbarus vividly details Christmas Day 1989, when she, her parents and hundreds of shoppers drew sudden sniper fire as Romania descended into the violence of a revolution that challenged one of the most draconian regimes in the Soviet bloc. Aura recalls a grisly execution that rocked the world and led to five harrowing days of bloody chaos as she and her family struggled to survive. The next day, Communist-controlled television released photos showing that dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife had been assassinated-though many Romanians, the author included, believed the executions had been staged since Ceausescu was known for using stand-ins to pose for him. Nevertheless, Aura tries to convince herself that life post-revolution will be different, but little changes. On May 7, 1997, with two pieces of luggage and a powerful dream, Aura and her new husband flee to America. Through sacrifice and hard work, the couple acquires a home, cars, and travel-but trying to be American is much more complicated than they expect. More difficulties set in: the stock market crash takes their savings, house, and cars; thieves steal three centuries' worth of heirloom jewels; and Aura's beloved mother dies. Aura's marriage crumbles under the stress. Devastated, she asks herself, 'How much of one's life is owed to others?' and 'Is it possible to straddle two cultures and not lose one's identity?' Tested even further by the vagaries of fate, Aura realizes that to resurrect herself, she must reconstruct her life. She becomes involved with the Romanian-American Professionals Network (RAPN), whose mission is to help Romanian immigrants adjust to American life without sacrificing their heritage. In this work, Aura discovers a startling truth a

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Customer Reviews

Aura's courage shows the degree to which we are all willing to live lives centered on freedom, hope, and an authentic sense of self. Truly a love story! --Nadia Comaneci, Olympic gold medalist
If you grew up hearing names like Tito, Mao, and Ceausescu but really didn't understand their significance, read this book! --Mark Skidmore, Paramount Pictures
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Unforgettable, giving the pioneer spirit courage and a brave heart bravado. --Adrian Maher, Documentary Filmmaker, Discovery Channel
If you grew up hearing names like Tito, Mao, and Ceausescu but really didn't understand their significance, read this book! --Mark Skidmore, Paramount Pictures
A remarkable account erasing a past, but not an identity. Thought-provoking, inspirational, and comforting. --Todd Greenfield, 20th Century Fox
This book is sure to find its place in memorial literature of the world. --Beatrice Ungar, Editor in chief, Hermannstadt's Zeitung
I congratulate Aura for this beautiful and courageous book, one that readily showcases the beauty and richness of this culture and people. --Mike Costache, Pres., Miss Universe Romania Organization
Out of the Transylvania Night is a compelling and spelling-binding story of a fiercely independent young woman growing up at the height of worldwide Communist power and then the rapid fall of the Iron Curtain. We must never forget what her story ultimately teaches. --Sharrie Williams, author, The Maybelline Story and the Spirited Family Dynasty
behind It Under Communism, Aura's family lost its fortune but kept their jewels. Under capitalism, she made a fortune and lost the jewels. And then lost the fortune as well. Such is the paradox found within the pages of this amazing and unforgettable story. --Lindy Hudis, producer, IMPACT Motion Pictures
We all have much to learn about freedom; certainly anyone born

without it will search until they find it. This is an incredible story about pain, strength, courage, defiance, and healing. •David Haspel, producer Out of the Transylvania Night presents an emotional journey through both free and closed societies, revealing how freedom is also found in the self and not only the destination. •Ilie T. Ardelean, founding chairman and president, Romanian-American Professional Network (RAPN) Out of the Transylvania Night is an exciting and truly memorable search for personal freedom. •Alexander R. Marmureanu, MD, president and CEO, California Heart and Lung Surgery Center, UCLA Medical Center Out of the Transylvania Night is a deeply moving account of one woman's search for her own identity, firstly under the Communist dictatorship of the ruthlessly oppressive Ceausescu, and, later, as she struggles to maintain her integrity in the face of overwhelming materialism. -Louise Henderson, bookpleasures.com. (Aura Imbarus Out of the Transylvania Night)

In a world which needs to embrace more from the ineffable principles of the universe, it is such a blessing to discover the beauty and greatness of a soul which reveals itself in all its fundamental genuineness! Personally, I think "Out of the Transylvania Night" is a precious treasure full of sensitivity and spirituality, a treasure which comes out to the light with an overflowing Romanian conscience of courage, freedom, truth, love, and giving. I read this book being totally immersed and overwhelmed by full-of-life memories, memories from my past as well...My mind, heart, and soul reunited in joy, sadness, revolt, relief and especially in a vital need for ascending beyond all what made us the slaves of a Romanian communist nightmare starting from those still unborn and ending with the oldest, the most hurt, and those who lack hope. And then, learning about the life's dear secrets of Aura Imbarus, I felt a "deja-vu" feeling in my own universe, enjoying and crying, reviving and raising with each emotion and feeling of hers, rediscovering myself, finding her and admiring her! What more can I say? Well, there are so much to be said and yet I feel that if I think I said everything, there, in the dense shadow, much more will still remain to be confessed... All Romanians from everywhere, (and not only Romanians!), please receive as a special gift such a beautiful genuineness of a naked soul which was already given to us, a dare to hope that each will find a way to fly so close to Aura and to the eternal Phoenix bird which undoubtedly put her essence inside of each of us; and let's enjoy, unchain ourselves, and especially fulfill and elevate ourselves so far away as this can be possible for each of us! In total admiration for the courage and genuineness of Aura, Antonela Simmermaker, Artist

First of all I would like to thank the author for writing such a beautiful and honest book! Aura, your

courage is exemplary! While reading "Out of the Transylvania Night", the entire time I felt it was written for me, so if you, dear reader, are expecting an objective and well put together review, you will not get it from me! I cried on almost every page, because everything is absolutely true! I was there! In essence, every chapter was emotional for me: starting with the stories about the dreaded Communism and the '89 Romanian Revolution, and continuing with the struggles of being caught between two worlds, leaving behind family and everything you knew, feeling alone, while overcoming unbelievable obstacles as a foreigner in the U.S. In conclusion, I would like to ask you, future reader of "Out of the Transylvania Night", to welcome with an open and gentle heart this special book. I hope that one day I would be able to meet Aura personally, and thank her properly with a hug or, perhaps, with a big plate of Mamaliga cu Branza :) Bianca L.

Aura's " Out of the Transylvania night " brought me to tears - what an inspiring story of surviving the Communist oppression, culminating with the 1989 Revolution . Leaving dear ones behind to start a new life in the US was not easy, but Aura's brave spirit, sense of adventure and her drive to live "The American Dream " with Michael, the love of her life made it all possible. What a rollercoaster life sometimes is ... from the struggle to make it in a new country , to living the " great life " then losing everything, money, love and her dear Mom to finding peace, balance, forgiveness, Love and a fresh perspective on Life. What an inspiring story !! Definitely a must read !!!

For the life of me I don't get the 5 star reviews and glowing blogs on GR, and the web concerning this book. Of course I could not find any actual big time reviewers that had published anything on Out of the Transylvania Night, but even so -- FIVE STARS?? I think not. I saw one reviewer call it a Cinderella story. Huh? It's about as close in theme to Cinderella as War and Peace is to Rapunzel. I bought this book because there is so little written about the horror of the Ceausescu years and their aftermath that is readable, and I saw all of the glowing reviews. So much for believing everything you read. I learned very little about what I really set out to learn. To be fair, this is an inspirational story. But it is not a particularly unique memoir, as memoirs go. Recent memoirs of the horrors of living through World War II (When God Looked the Other Way or The Ice Road) are far more inspirational and far better written. If you want to see the human spirit at work, read about starving with your family in a Soviet gulag and surviving. That is transcendent. My big problem with this book is the way that it is written. Again, to be fair, the author is not a native English speaker, but where is the world was her editor? The narrative rocks along between young adult speak full of idioms and the most purple of purple prose. Examples of the former: "he did not come on to me" "he started his

spiel" "we played phone tag" "my water works had dried up" "How could I ever level with her now?" "Can I have a word with you guys? (meaning her parents)." I expect that kind of writing from a teenager, not a grown woman. It really got annoying. Examples of purple prose included: " I beheld the immensity and splendor of the Pacific Ocean" "freezing, ice limned mornings with the sun's rays dazzling the world into crystalline glory." Oh my goodness! In the same book narrated by the same author. Then sprinkled throughout were words like oideja vu and solipsist, which don't exactly fit into the "coming on to me" YA speak narrative and stood out like gratuitous SAT words. The writing was so in need of editing, that I wanted to get out my Professor's red pen. Passive-voice sentences abounded. Punctuation was nothing like I've ever seen before with semi-colons and hyphens used willy-nilly. Abbreviations were used with no explanations (e.g. GMs of factories instead of general managers). I thought she was talking about General Motors! What comes through in this book is that the author is a bright, ambitious, hard working immigrant of the kind that the U.S. has build on and who made it great. She is also energetic and charismatic. Sadly, she was ill served by her editors and publisher. If she'd had some competent, mature and thoughtful guidance and critique, she could have had a good memoir here. I would still have been disappointed from the standpoint of someone who wanted to learn more about Romania, but at least the writing might have not been so thoroughly annoying.

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