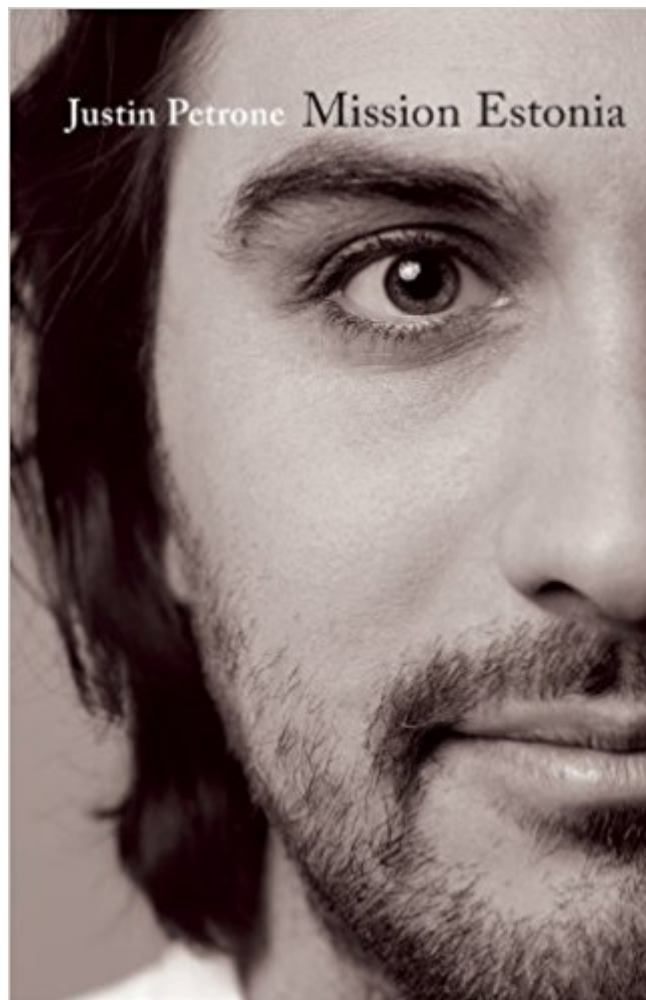


The book was found

Mission Estonia



Synopsis

This collection of entertaining columns captures Estonian life as experienced through the eyes of a foreigner. Inside you will find tales of mobile phones and wood-heated furnaces, jerks and drunks, Estonian blood and foreign men, homemade pickles and nuclear winters, blood sausages and jellied meats, celebrities and unzipped pants, Soviet nostalgia and Fish Fridays, prostitutes and porn addicts, pregnancy and dementia, moving and renovation, dress codes and tribes, secrets and saunas, drug wars and flying couches, Facebook and voyeurism. Not to mention other important characters, including the infamous Bunny and Blacky.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

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Customer Reviews

I have previously read both volumes of Justin Petrone's 'My Estonia' so was keen to read this. Actually immediately before reading Mission Estonia I had been reading Mark Twain's 'Roughing It' so expected a complete change of mood and subject matter. In fact I was quickly struck by the completely coincidental but remarkable similarities between the two books. Both 'Roughing It' and 'Mission Estonia' are largely assembled from earlier material - in Twain's case his reports for various small regional newspapers, travel diaries and the like. A hundred and fifty years later, Petrone draws on his own magazine articles and blog entries to similar effect. Both writers manage to stitch some sense of continuity to link their meditations on wide-ranging topics and you get the sense that if the two writers had switched places - Twain to modern Estonia and Petrone to the Frontier West, both would have managed quite comfortably with subject matter that also has similarities - unusual groups of people (often with confused identities), get rich quick schemes,

rambunctious political chicanery, unscrupulous editors and unexpected acts of kindness. Like Twain, Petrone has an easy way with an anecdote, a good ear for dialogue, a talent for attracting oddballs and possesses an enviable ability to switch from comedy to seriousness and back again without jarring. His sense of humor is dry, so that whenever he starts to be a bit superior or judgmental of Estonian life he usually undercuts his position with an example of his own naivety or some other joke at his own expense. The mini-essays whip by at high speed over the course of just three or four pages each so that even if the occasional one doesn't appeal another is immediately on hand to offer up something different. A nice little collection to dip into and a great choice to take on a long weekend to Tallinn.

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