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Chasing A Croatian Girl: A Survivor's Tale



Synopsis

This is the lighthearted story of American Cody McClain Brown's adjustments to life in Croatia. After falling in love with an enigmatic, beautiful Croatian girl (whom he knows is from Croatia but assumes that means Russia), Cody eventually woos her and the two move to Split, Croatia. There, he encounters a world of deadly drafts, endless coffees, and the forceful will of his matriarchal mother-in-law. Chasing a Croatian Girl moves past the beautiful pictures of Croatia and humorously discovers the beauty of Croatia's people and culture.

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Customer Reviews

"Perceptive, humane and frequently hilarious" -TimeOut Croatia. "Brown has given us not only an engaging look into the heart of Croatia but, by reflection, a solid definition of what it means to be an American. With strong prose, buoyed by wit, I tore through this wonderful book. And then planned a trip to Croatia." - Jacob Tomsky, New York Times bestselling author of Heads in Beds. No. 8 of the top 10 most read books in Croatia in 2015 -Index.hr

Cody McClain Brown teaches at the University of Zagreb and writes a weekly blog for Croatian Radio Television's the Voice of Croatia. He has a PhD in political science and lives in Zagreb with his wife and daughter - his mother-in-law visits frequently.

As a non-Croatian, Cody captured the essence of the Croatian soul to its very depth. This is an

amazing feat. As a Croatian American, I laughed out loud so many times reading this book. When I think of my own father scolding me my whole life whenever I was barefoot (opet si bosa, he would say), or my mother fearing I would die an instant death because I had wet hair and their was propuh. And God forbid I should sit on something cold! This book was so entertaining and so true to Croatian idiosyncrasies, that unless you are Croatian, you can't begin to explain it to a non-Croatian. And Cody NAILED it!!

In the spirit of reviewing this book, I'm drinking some coffee and propping up my bare feet onto my desk. Ahhh. I just finished reading it. As someone who will be visiting in a few months (I loved the poetic description of Zagreb and Split in the winter) I also laughed out loud- I live in Colorado, and naturally we consider fresh air to be healthy, and stale indoor air to be the opposite! I also teach yoga.. and am a big proponent of going barefoot for biomechanical/fitness reasons, (over-engineered shoes are the devil!) so I can relate. But I also get the feeling that I will love Croatia. Jedva Šafâ Čekam! Cody's writings have made for some interesting conversations with my friends in Croatia about the difference in culture, but also as a way to discover some similarities between us. I have friends and contacts that have some very American qualities, and I know I will pick up (if I have not already) some Croatian traits. This book and Zablogreb have so far served as a great introduction to me (and have been a LOT easier to read than my BCS grammar text!) My only complaint: I can't find the book here in the US in Croatian, because I want to read it on the plane. It might take me at least the 10 hour flight to get through it, but a perfect way to practice.. So I'll just have to find it in Zagreb and test my reading comprehension skills on the flight back to the US! Come to think of it, I need to save room in my baggage to bring everyone a small gift. I hope there is more coming!

I am Croatian American and have been to Croatia 14 times. I even lived and went to school there for 6 months. When I read this book I finally understood how my poor American husband felt. I took so much of the cultural differences for granted being raised by two Croatian immigrants. Great read for anyone wanting to know about Croatian culture! Funny and entertaining. I couldn't put it down. Looming forward to the sequel!!

I was in Croatia when I read this. It is short and consists of a series of short essays. Brown married a Croatian woman and moved to Croatia. The book consists of his experiences learning about the differences between life in Oklahoma and Croatia. He is a good writer and it is an entertaining read.

Love this book. Being married to a Croatian man (who thankfully is tracksuit-less), so much of this rang true. The writing is casual (and hilarious) for most of the book, but he gets to some of the more difficult realties (job market, wage issues, nepotism, etc.). Read it in one sitting with fan on full blast. Take that, propuh!

I read this book after a two-week tourist visit to Croatia . I'm too old and too happily married to consider chucking it all and living in Croatia, but my experiences in Croatia tell me that any man from 16 to 60 could do a lot worse than pursuit of a Croatian woman. Please don't buy this book unless you are prepared to be amused and have your set values put into question.

Being a Tulsa native and having visited Croatia, the combination of those two things made this an intriguing read. Some parts were a little tedious and his characterizations of people from Oklahoma were a little generalized. Many of us Oklahomans wear nice clothes on airplanes and don't walk around in shirts that reveal armpit hair. But I loved his insights into the differences between life in Oklahoma and life in Croatia. All in all, the book was an enjoyable read.

This book is a difficult read. The stories are "precious," the author does not write well, and the book drags and drones on. I wanted to enjoy this book, but I cannot read more than three pages at a time.

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