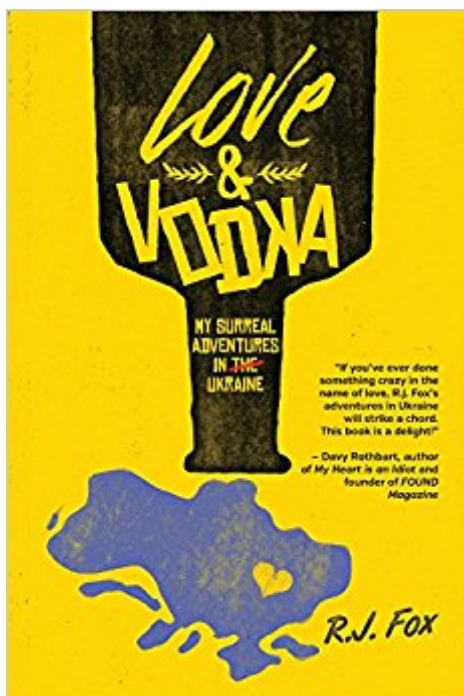


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Love & Vodka: My Surreal Adventures In Ukraine



Synopsis

Love & Vodka is a book with broad appeal. It is a unique hybrid of travel memoir and love story that seamlessly blends humor, culture shock, and romance. It is about taking a chance in life and seeing where it leads, as well as learning more about the world and about yourself. The world is large and full of potential; one just needs to be willing to take a gamble and explore the possibilities that exist. Bobby is over the moon after sharing a bike on the E.T. ride at Universal Studios with Katya. Join our intrepid crusader as he takes a leap of faith traveling from comfortable have-a-nice-day and have-a-warm-shower suburban Detroit to the former center of Cold War Soviet missile production. And unbeknownst to anyone but himself, he's bringing an engagement ring! Experience life in a city that, until the mid-1980s, was closed to foreign visitors. R.J. Fox's humorous, poignant, and memorable expedition is punctuated by a colorful cast of characters, adventures, and cultural mishaps and misunderstandings from irate babushka women to hard-drinking uncles. Lesser mortals might have phoned home to be rescued. Armchair travelers and romantics you will find yourself both schooled in hard knocks and heartened to have shared in the unforgettable experience of Love & Vodka! "Za vashe zdorovie!"

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Imagine a world where people think, act, and respond differently to the way you've

always known – and then let R.J. Fox take you there. Not enough has been written about everyday life in the former Soviet Union, and it’s captured beautifully here.

– Tony Hawks, author, *Round Ireland with a Fridge* “If you’ve ever done something crazy in the name of love, R.J. Fox’s adventures in Ukraine will strike a chord. This book is a delight!

– Davy Rothbart, author, *Found: The Best Lost, Tossed, and Forgotten Items from Around the World* “For all of us who wish we were more adventurous in travel and in love, R.J. Fox is the perfect guide to Ukraine and the heart. *Love & Vodka* is funny, moving, and full of surprises.

– Laura Kasischke, author, *In a Perfect World* “A witty, engaging story of introspection, taking chances, and one American’s journey into Ukraine, a land that needs understanding now more than ever.

– Lev Golinkin, author, *A Backpack, a Bear, and Eight Crates of Vodka* “*Love & Vodka* is an old-fashioned love story told with uncommon wit and unabashed warmth. R.J. Fox guides his readers through the dangers of cold showers, straight liquor, and unfamiliar customs, to sweet new romance under gentle Ukrainian rain.

– Ana Maria Spagna, author, *100 Skills You’ll Need for the End of the World (As We Know It)* “*Love & Vodka* is a warm, funny tale of an American who follows his heart to Ukraine. There he discovers a world where men are meant to be strong, drink copious amounts of vodka and resuscitate cars seemingly beyond repair. Will he or won’t he win his girl? Read on to find out in this zany tour of Ukraine through the eyes of a young Michigander.

– Susan Viets, author, *Picnic at the Iron Curtain* “*Love & Vodka* is an easy ride to this foreign land. The kind of travelogue you want to take to bed or the beach or the metro . . . one to be read when you have the time to truly savor a travel experience. It’s a blend of love story, light history lessons and a close look at Ukraine through the eyes of a young, American man.

– Adriana Páramo, author, *Looking for Esperanza* “Sharply observed and wickedly funny. When romance goes Ukrainian!

– Jack Barker, editor, *TravelMag: The Independent Spirit*

R.J. Fox is an English and video production teacher where he uses his own dream of making movies to inspire his students to follow their dreams. He has previously worked in public relations and as a journalist. He is the writer and director of several short films and has written short stories, plays, poems, and several feature-length screenplays. He lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

This book is full of laughter and love and of course vodka. The writer is the every man who finds himself in a extraordinary adventure all in the name of love. From beginning to end you are rooting

for the writer to just make it though the next hurdle (be it asking a girl who catches his eye out, or finding the courage to ask a particular question...or survive a "sobering" experience). The description of the writers adventures in Ukraine, his interactions with all he meets and the countless "Babushka" ladies kept me laughing out loud. If you have ever done something crazy, if you have ever laid it all out on the line for love, this is the book for you. 5 out of 5 stars.

Having been lucky to have traveled abroad several times in my life I can say that "Love and Vodka" is a great fun read about just that... the typical American encountering the less than perfect world outside of our borders. RJ Fox has a delightful sense of humor that keeps this story moving through his many trials and errors, culture shock, and love affair. It is an easy read filled with humor and adventure. You won't be disappointed! OH! and I forgot to say that this is the authors first book! We will be waiting for his next!

What a delightfully charming (true) story! R.J. Fox is such an entertaining author. Very hilarious observations and turns-of-phrases. I have laughed out loud several times. I've even felt tears in my eyes. All the feelings! I very much enjoyed learning more about what daily life is like in Ukraine. If you like travelogues or memoirs, or just appreciate a tale of love, then you will dig this book!

Very well written account of the people, culture, and a great love story of Bobby and Katya. The book conveys Bobby's passion for life. The details are amazing and Bobby's humor fortifies the happenings. Hard to put the book down. I smirk when I think of Babushka, one of my favorite characters. Look forward to more novels from this author.

I read this on vacation and found it extremely funny and a fast read. Having lived in a foreign country and not knowing the language I could empathize with Bobby, although I had the advantage of being in a place where most spoke some English. His story was well told and an eye opener for those not familiar with the people and culture of Ukraine.

This should be a film!!!! RJ Fox has an unmistakable voice. The reader feels as if she's laughing at and with him. Read this, you won't be disappointed. *~f~ ~ Å~ â ^~ Å •*

I was hooked from the first chapter and read the book in just 2 days. Very fun love story. Please tell us what happened when you guys got back to the US!

Great read for those who live life with no regrets! What an adventure the author takes you on from start to finish. Truly enjoyed and felt like I was in Ukraine with!

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