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Zombies Of Berlin



Synopsis

For generations, the big city has promised romance, danger, opportunity. But what happens when you wake up one hungover morning and realize the promise is gone...along with your cheap apartment? That your whole existence in Berlin - 10 years of easy living based on cheap rent and the ability to just barely make it in the creative industry - was just a historical accident, the cheap rent and Bohemian setting products of a perverse economy, a miracle that couldn't possibly last? What does it do to your sense of place to realize that Berlin is following cluelessly in New York's footsteps, from artsy wonderland to real estate boondoggle? Does that mean Berlin, like New York, is over? Or does it come back to you: Deep down, does it mean that you can't afford to go on fooling yourself? Part amateur sociology, part autobiographical journey, *Zombies of Berlin* explores Ralph Martin's experience of gentrification in Berlin and New York and the dawning horror that these cities have windows of raw beauty: Blink and you might miss them. The author takes an anxiety-fueled trip to Leipzig to check out the 'better Berlin', with distinctly mixed results, thrown back upon himself as he tries to figure out whether we shouldn't all just move to the country. *Zombies* is not a political pamphlet but a hauntingly melancholic and comical journey: a vivid portrait of status anxiety in the age of real estate. Ralph Martin is an ex-New Yorker, writer, and journalist. His work has appeared in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, in the *New York Times*, and elsewhere.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Quick enjoyable read, witty and inventive. Five stars appropriate when considering the authors ability

to connect with a large cross section of readers. Nice to have some fun light reading sometimes.

"I Will Find a City, Find Myself a City to Live In" -- David Byrne. Why does it seem whatever city one inhabits "used to be cool back in the day," but now that WE live here, rents are out of control and the city has been pronounced dead? This is a great book that deftly examines this phenom, with brilliantly crafted prose, such as: "...cool is the coral reef that keeps the ocean healthy." A great book for anyone who has ever lived in a city that "used to be great," or dreams of one day living in a city like...oh, I hear Leipzig is all the rage now!

This is SO funny and so smart - I lapped up every page. I was really hooked by this book - which I wasn't totally expecting. I mean, I thought it would be pretty good but it's actually SO GOOD. Couldn't put it down! But sad that Berlin is going the way of so many good cities, with its new monied residents pushing out the cultural factions... So relevant - and I recommend highly.

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