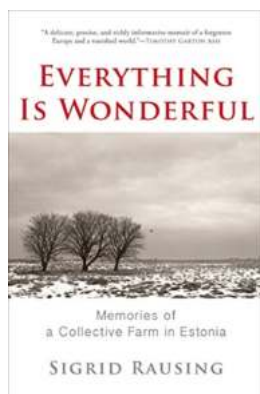


The Untold Stories: Recollecting the Memories of a Collective Farm in Estonia

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When discussing the history and culture of Estonia, one cannot ignore the lasting impact of collective farms. These cooperative agricultural units that existed during the Soviet era shaped the lives of countless Estonians, leaving a deep imprint on their memories. In this article, we delve into the untold stories of individuals who lived and worked on a collective farm in Estonia, reminiscing about their experiences, struggles, triumphs, and the unique bond that was formed within these communities.

What is a Collective Farm?



Everything Is Wonderful: Memories of a Collective Farm in Estonia by Greater Than a Tourist (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 2206 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 246 pages
Lending	: Enabled



During the Soviet occupation of Estonia, collective farms were established as part of the agricultural collectivization policy. These farms aimed to consolidate small-

scale private farms into larger, state-controlled entities. Under the centrally planned economy, the goal was to increase agricultural output and promote socialist ideals.

The Daily Life on a Collective Farm:

Living and working on a collective farm was a transformative experience for many Estonians. The daily routine revolved around tending to crops, raising livestock, and maintaining the farm's infrastructure. From sunrise to sunset, the collective farm became a focal point of the community, intertwining the personal and professional lives of its inhabitants.

Struggles and Triumphs:

The collective farm system had its fair share of challenges. Estonians faced harsh weather conditions, limited resources, and the pressure to meet production targets set by the Soviet authorities. However, amidst these difficulties, remarkable stories of resilience and innovation emerged. Farmers found creative ways to overcome obstacles, support each other, and adapt to the unpredictable nature of farming.

The Unique Bond:

One cannot discuss collective farms in Estonia without acknowledging the unique camaraderie that developed amongst the inhabitants. Living and working together created a strong sense of community and solidarity. Neighbors became more than just fellow farmers; they became a support system, offering a helping hand during both the good and bad times.

Legacy and Impact:

With Estonia's regained independence in 1991, the collective farm system gradually came to an end. Many individual farms were restored, and new opportunities emerged for agricultural practices. However, the memories, skills, and values instilled during the era of collective farming continue to shape the cultural fabric of Estonia. The collective farm experience left a lasting mark on Estonians, influencing their work ethic, resourcefulness, and the strong sense of unity that still resonates today.

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The memories of collective farms in Estonia hold immense significance in the nation's history and identity. They illustrate the determination, perseverance, and community spirit that allowed Estonians to endure challenging times and strive for a brighter future. As we listen to the narratives of those who lived through this era, we gain a profound appreciation for their shared experiences. The memories of the collective farm will forever remain an integral part of Estonia's past, reminding us of the strength that emerges when individuals come together towards a common goal.



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“Pages of dreamlike prose explore Estonia’s terrible Nazi-Soviet past, the trauma of dictatorship, and how memory processes that trauma.” —The Financial Times

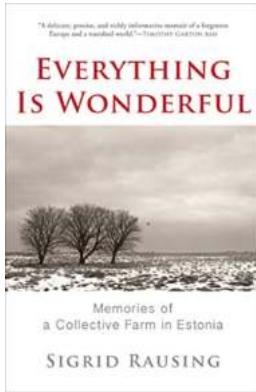
A Times Literary Supplement Best Book of the Year

Just like it was taken for granted that houses could be abandoned and slowly decay, so it was taken for granted that people died in prisons, and that it was possible that no-one would really ever know the cause of death. This is the nature of totalitarianism . . .

In the early 1990s, after the collapse of the USSR, Sigrid Rausing completed her anthropological fieldwork on the peninsula of Noarootsi, a former Soviet border protection zone in Estonia. Abandoned watch towers dotted the coast line, and the huge fields of the Lenin collective farm were lying fallow, waiting for claims from former owners who had fled war and Soviet and Nazi occupation.

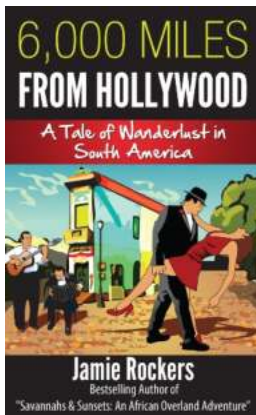
Rausing’s conversations with the local people touched on many subjects: the economic privations of post-Soviet existence, the bewildering influx of western products, and the Swedish background of many of them. In *Everything Is Wonderful* Rausing reflects on history, political repression, and the story of the minority Swedes in the area. Here she tells her story of what she observed as she lived and worked among the villagers—witnessing their transition from repression to freedom, and from Soviet neglect to post-Soviet austerity.

“A delicate, precise, and richly informative memoir of a forgotten Europe and a vanished world.” —Timothy Garton Ash



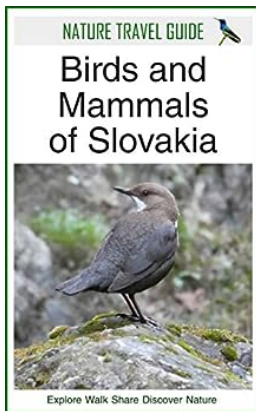
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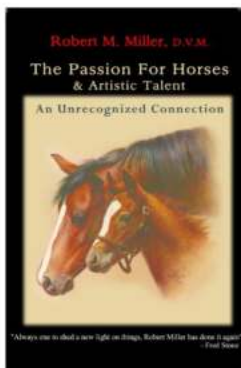
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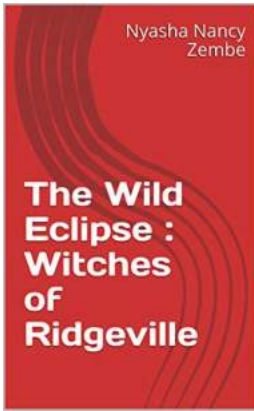
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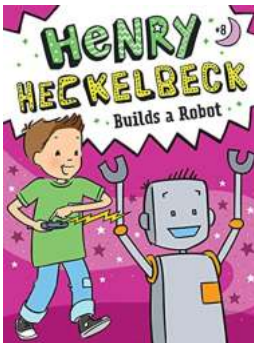
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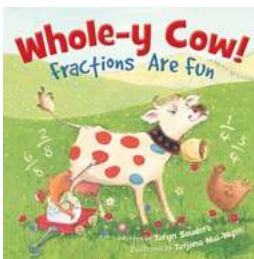
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