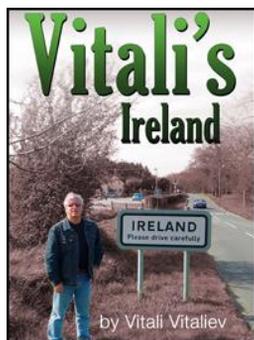




Pushing the envelope



Vitali's Ireland

By Vitali Vitaliev

Thrust Books' brand new digital release *Vitali's Ireland* offers a unique perspective on 21st century Irish cultural identity, delivered in a style rich with his typical sardonic wit.

Ukrainian-born Vitali Vitaliev, an award-winning travel writer and journalist, writes from an outsider's perspective, recounting time spent in Ireland. A renowned cultural observer, he muses on the nation's quirks and stereotypes, whilst his reference to mid-19th century guide books provides an insightful historical comparison. The result is an affectionate if slightly perplexed portrait of a nation in transition.

Technical Details:

Price	£4.11
Format	Kindle Edition
File Size	1008 KB
Publisher	Thrust Books
Language	English
ISBN:	978-1-908756-09-1

What the critics say:

"This is a book that will perplex and infuriate some but appear quite humorous to others . . . Eccentric guide to a land of contradictions . . . A rather eclectic mixture of farce, travel guide and personal observation . . . This book should be required reading for those executives who run our tourist authorities."

Colin Lenihan, Minister for Integration, in The Irish Times

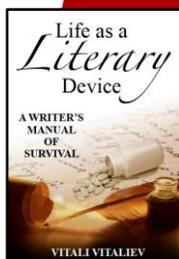
"Slightly eccentric and highly enjoyable . . . Slightly cranky, sometimes bewildered, often meandering back across his life and generally highly entertaining, Vitali's Ireland is very much an outsider's look into our country. If he doesn't know what to make of us, it is maybe because he is viewing us at a junction where we don't know what to make of ourselves."

Dermot Bolger, in Sunday Business

"Vitali is big hearted, broad minded and smart as a whip . . . A Ukrainian-born Russian exile whose worldwide perambulations have produced a string of fine, intelligent works of idiosyncratic reportage, this somewhat unusual visitor offers a valuable gift to us Irish readers: The outside perspective . . . Vitaliev wanders the 32 counties like some kind of gormless, amiable pilgrim, half-Mr Bean, half-Socrates. . . (His) observations on the folly of the Northern conflict are heartbreaking in their simplicity and world-weary resignation . . . I could fill this paper with quotable extracts."

Hugh Tynan, in the Irish Examiner Weekend

Also by Vitali Vitaliev:



The author:

Vitali Vitaliev was born in Kharkiv, Ukraine. He first made a name for himself in the then Soviet Union, writing satirical journalism in Krokodil and other publications, exposing the activities of organised crime and the all-permeating corruption in the collapsing country. His fearless stance ultimately led to his defection in 1990, following months of persecution by the KGB.

He has appeared regularly on TV and radio in the UK (Have I Got News For You, Saturday Night Clive, After Dark, Start the Week), was a writer/researcher for QI and has contributed to newspapers and magazines all over the world.

He is the author of twelve books, including cult classics such as *Dreams on Hitler's Couch*, *Borders Up*, *Passport to Enclavia* and *Life as a Literary Device*.



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www.thrustbooks.com

Telephone: +44 (0) 207 070 0932 Email: bookspress@advfn.com

Publisher Thrust Books, 3rd Floor, 26 Throgmorton Street, London, EC2N 2AN