



Never Mind the Balkans, Here's Romania

By Mike Ormsby

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'Never Mind the Balkans, Here's Romania' has been described as one of the best guide books on Romania. If you want to discover Romania with someone who knows it well, Mike Ormsby's travel writing is for you.

Whilst the average Romania travel guide provides details of places to visit, this writer takes a different approach. Ormsby gets up close and personal, blending journalistic objectivity with dry wit to craft true-life stories about the people who live in Romania: from friendly hikers and shepherds in Transylvania, to exasperated taxi drivers and bossy bureaucrats in Bucharest.

Ormsby's bittersweet short stories are a quick and easy read yet offer fascinating glimpses of an enthralling land that Vlad 'The Impaler' Tepes - real life inspiration for gothic legend Dracula - once ruled with an iron fist.

Mike Ormsby's first visited Romania in spring 1994 as a BBC reporter. Touched by the hospitality and wry humour of the local people, he soon returned to teach journalism at BBC World Service School in Bucharest, and remained in that post for several years, writing in his spare time.

Published in 2008, 'Never Mind the Balkans, Here's Romania', was well received by Romania's literary critics, several of whom dubbed Ormsby 'The British Caragiale', in deference to their beloved fin-de-siècle satirist and playwright. Ion Luca Caragiale shone a humorous and affectionate light on Romania in his era, and Mike Ormsby does the same in ours.

Numerous expats and visitors have also welcomed the book as a unique and modern variation on the more conventional Romania travel guide.

'Never Mind the Balkans, Here's Romania' is a memorable collection of travel writing that provides a unique insight into this irresistible country, where locals say, "Ca la noi, la nimeni - there's nobody quite like us."

So, close your guide book and meet the people! Ormsby's cast of colourful characters will entertain, educate, and even enrage - it depends who's reading.

Many reviewers praise the book's frank and funny descriptions of life in Romania:

"This chronicle of slightly agonised passion for a country and its people is exactly the kind of Romania guidebook that a visitor needs - an insight into the culture's paradoxical heart."

"Wonderfully captures many aspects of living and working in Romania - funny, frequently frustrating and uniquely Romanian."

"A good read on the cultural changes in post-communist Romania with a comical slant. An interesting piece of social commentary."

"A fascinating view of Romanian people, witty and readable."

"If you enjoy honest travel writing this is definitely worth a read."

"If you're planning a trip or have already been, this is an insightful, informative, and funny book on Romania and Romanians."

"The book is a series of short witty essays about everyday life and friendships in modern Romania. Ormsby skilfully brings out the contradictions, contrasts, warmth, and beauty of a fascinating country and its colourful people."

"'Never Mind the Balkans, Here's Romania' is an intimate tour of Romania with an expert guide. Perfect for the truly adventurous as well as the armchair traveller. Ormsby smuggles you deep inside this extraordinary country and into the minds of its people. A brilliant read."

"A fascinating journey through Romanian geography and culture, told with warmth and hope."

"I loved this book. An anecdotal review of life in Romania from the perspective of an Englishman with typically dry humour. Highly recommended, a great read, and I was laughing from beginning to end."

"A realistic and very humorous insight into the Romanian psyche. As someone who has travelled extensively in Romania I could relate to many incidents."

"Never Mind the Balkans has become one of the best-selling books ever written about Romania by a foreigner. Romania is the protagonist of

the book, not Mike Ormsby."

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Editorial Review

Review

"Likeable, lucid, with a big soul. Ormsby offers reality - today's Romania." - Formula AS

"Romania's British Caragiale. You die laughing." - Cotidianul

"Does not play our national sport of turning away." - Romania Libera

"Merits pride of place on any bookshelf." - Foaia Transilvana

"Better than a guide book." - Tribune

"He clearly appreciates our charisma." - Elle

"Very good portraitist." - Cultural Observer

"Full of charm, a lot of English humor." - Ziarul de Iasi

"Had me laughing at man's utter fallibility in the face of absurdity. And I loved Romania more with every page." - expatro.blogspot.ro/

About the Author

Mike Ormsby was born in Ormskirk, and grew up on Merseyside, England. He is the author of '**Never Mind the Balkans, Here's Romania**' (2008), '**Spinner the Winner**' (2012), '**Child Witch Kinshasa**' (2013), and '**Child Witch London**' (2014). His screenplay '**Hey, Mr DJ!**' (2005) was filmed in Kigali and topped the bill at Rwanda's first **Hollywood Film Festival**. His script '**Enfants Dits Sorciers**' (2002) was filmed in Kinshasa. His script '**In Her Own Image**' (2000) was optioned in Los Angeles and, well, that was that. Mike is a former **BBC** journalist/World Service trainer. He is based in a mountain village in **Transylvania**, Romania, where he has lived for 500 years.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michelle Wilson:

What do you with regards to book? It is not important along? Or just adding material when you require something to explain what yours problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy man? If you don't have spare time to complete others business, it is gives you the sense of being bored faster. And you have free time? What did you do? Every individual has many questions above. They need to answer that question simply because just their can do this. It said that about publication. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on pre-school until university need that **Never Mind the Balkans, Here's Romania** to read.

Joan Munoz:

Why? Because this Never Mind the Balkans, Here's Romania is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap this but latter it will surprise you with the secret it inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who also write the book in such wonderful way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book have got such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I were you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

Ronald Cleary:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try point that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Never Mind the Balkans, Here's Romania, you may enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

Tia Rosario:

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