



Wilderness House Press



Dosha, flight of the Russian Gypsies

In 1956 Khrushchev's Thaw triggers the Hungarian Revolution and upheaval in the Soviet Empire. During Khrushchev's first state visit to Helsinki, Dosha, star rider of the Soviet Dressage Team and her horse defect with the help of local Gypsies.

The novel follows the life of Dosha, a Gypsy in disguise. It offers unique insight into the tribal life of nomadic Gypsies, who under Stalin joined partisans fighting Nazi invaders, only to face entrapment during Khrushchev's Thaw. By then Dosha and her talented circus horse have been drafted into the dressage team in Leningrad.

Navigating political intrigue, narrowly escaping discovery by the KGB, she enters a love forbidden to Gypsy women. One goal remains uppermost in her mind – leading her tribe and her horse to freedom in the West.

Sonia Meyer is the author of the forthcoming novel, "*Dosha, flight of the Russian Gypsies*" to be released November 1 2010 by Wilderness House Press.

Sonia Meyer fled the Nazis with her parents when she was 2 years old to live in the woods of Germany and Poland with partisans and Gypsies. There her father taught her to throw hand grenades using a wooden darning egg. They lived in the woods, in abandoned houses, in fields, in isolated excursion inns and barns, always dodging the German and later Soviet armies who hunted them relentlessly. Shortly after the war Sonia and her family returned to Cologne Germany where she foraged for food with a band of Gypsies camped nearby.

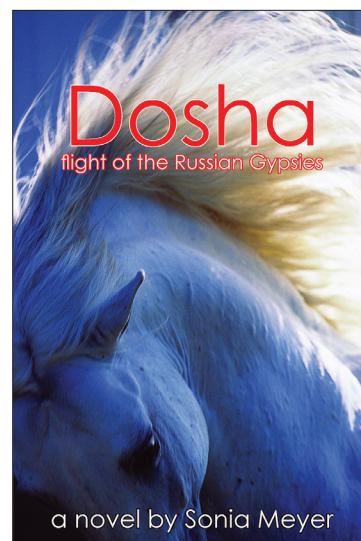
GALLEYS: PUBLICATION INFORMATION FOR SONIA MEYER'S DOSHA, flight of the Russian Gypsies

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Author: Sonia Meyer
Title: Dosha, flight of the Russian Gypsies
ISBN: 978-0-9827115-1-4
LOC Number: 2010929986
Release Date: **November 1, 2010**

Publisher: Wilderness House Press
145 Foster Street
Littleton Massachusetts 01460
www.WildernessHousePress.com

List price: \$24.95 (hardcover) 6 x 9
First Edition: 386 pages
Distribution: Pathway Book Service



ForeWord Reviews



ForeWord Clarion Review

HISTORICAL FICTION

Dosha: Flight of the Russian Gypsies

Few can comprehend the hellish torment inflicted on countless gypsies during the time of the Soviet Empire. Always fearful of discovery, some disguised themselves or went undercover to stay safe while others participated in a government-approved society under assumed names with accepted professions.

Dosha: Flight of the Russian Gypsies tells the three-part story of a talented gypsy equestrian woman who gets drafted into the Soviet dressage team in Leningrad. Even as she is promoted as a star and given elevated status, Dosha's only desire is to defect. Well-integrated into the book's gripping plot are historical facts and vivid descriptions of the Russian gypsies and their role fighting the Nazi invasion during Stalin's reign, followed by their oppression during Khrushchev's Thaw in 1956, which instigated the Hungarian Revolution. Khrushchev's first state visit to Helsinki, Finland, on June 6, 1957, plays a crucial part in this enthralling story.

Edgy, entertaining, and filled with political stratagem, even a jaded fan of novels set during the Soviet era will not be disappointed. Indeed, Meyer's knowledge and research shines on every page. At no point does she neglect her story to force sterile history on the reader, yet she manages to convey all essential information effortlessly. Her ability to capture the unique relationship between a sensitive rider and her dedicated horse is outstanding. This beautiful stallion is such an integral character in the book that his emotions can be felt during the hard training sessions and unexpected separations from Dosha.

Sonia Meyer was only two years old when she fled the Nazis with her parents and lived with partisans and gypsies in the woods, fields, abandoned houses, inns and barns of Germany and Poland. Later it was the Soviets who pursued them. Sonia's family returned to Cologne, Germany, after the war and, at one point, foraged for food with a band of gypsies.

Meyer's work is a perfect balance of realism, action-intrigue, and romance. A prominent activist for Roma culture, she is a gifted writer and a goldmine of knowledge and empathy.

Five Stars (out of Five)

Julia Ann Charpentier

Foreword Reviews