



The Spirit-Wrestlers

By Philip Marsden

HarperCollins Publishers, United Kingdom, 1999. Paperback.
Book Condition: New. 192 x 128 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. The new book from the acclaimed author of The Crossing Place and The Bronski House. In Moscow, a man points on a map to the place where he was born. He is a Doukhobor, a spirit-wrestler , a member of a group of radical Russian sectarians. He is pointing to a village beyond the southern steppe, at the far south of the old Russian empire: I was born here, he says. On the edge of the world. So begins Philip Marsden s Russian journey - perhaps the most penetrating account of Russian life since the Soviet Union s collapse made travel possible again. In villages unseen by outsiders since before the revolution, he encounters men and women of fabulous courage, larger than life, dazed by the century s turbulence. By turns wise, devout, comic, they seem to have stepped straight from the pages of Turgenev, Gogol and Babel. Marsden meets such figures as the Yezidi Sheikh of Sheikhs, an exiled Georgian prince and a cast of passionate scholars, stooping survivors of the gulags, strutting Cossacks and extreme, isolated sects of Milk-Drinkers...



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