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A Polish Son in the Motherland

By Leonard Kniffel

Texas A&M University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New.

Paperback. 246 pages. Dimensions: 9.1in. x 6.1in. x

0.7in. Searching for the remnants of his family, Leonard Kniffel

left Chicago in 2000 to live in Poland. A Polish Son in the

Motherland is the story of a search for roots and for the reasons why one family's ties were severed more than fifty years ago.

Along the way, we see what half a century of communism did to

Poland and how the residue of World War II lingers. The author's

search begins inauspiciously, but he soon meets a local wine

merchant and her son, who are eager to reveal the secrets of

Nowe Miasto Lubawskie, the town near which his grandmother

was born. After he moves in with Adam, a local entrepreneur

who trades in everything from shoes and cosmetics to

computers and jam, he begins to master his ancestral language

and learn the ways of the community from Adam's mother, who

loves long walks in the woods and meals made from what she

picks there. Kniffel's search for a connection to Poland is

propelled by memories of the stories his grandmother told him

about her emigration to Michigan in 1913. While his family...



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Reviews

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