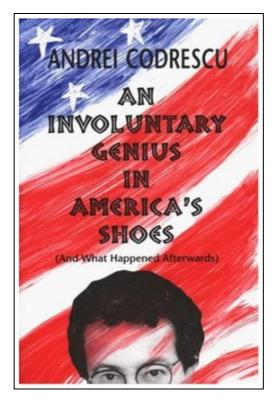
Involuntary Genius in America's Shoes [An]: (And What Happened Afterwards)



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INVOLUNTARY GENIUS IN AMERICA'S SHOES [AN]: (AND WHAT HAPPENED AFTERWARDS)



Black Sparrow, USA, 2001. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 1st Edition. 364pp. [In stock in Australia, for immediate delivery] The Algeresque story of how Andrei Perlmutter, a bright kid growing up in the Stalinist backwater of 1950s Romania, manages to vault himself into the heart of60s American counterculture as Andrei Codrescu, Transylvanian exotic and man of letters. [Written] with enormous verve. it is not only a self-portrait of the future poet, travel writer, NPR broadcaster and novelist but a thumbnail history of recent American literary bohemia - Publishers Weekly In New York City in 1969, Andrei Codrescu, a Romanian poet just beginning to master the American vernacular, began writingThe Life & Times of an Involuntary Genius (1975), a memoir of antic Communist youth now recognised as a classic of comic self-creation. There I was, twenty-three years old, the possessor of a wealth of experience which had already spawned an equal if not greater quantity of mythicising anecdotes'. Anecdote 1: He was the intellectual love child of Transylvania's great culture heroes, Dracula and Ionesco, twin totems of the Immortal and the Absurd. Anecdote 2: He was a political exile from Communist Europe, and everyone knows that all exiles are geniuses. A later anecdote - the one about the enormous file the INS had collected on him and his left-wing Neo-Beat activities - provides the subject of the sequel, In America's Shoes (1983), the mock epic of his quest to become a U.S. citizen. This new book collects both of Codrescu's memoirs, together with the now-middle-aged author's wry notes on the young man who wrote them. While travelling the road from the Balkan forest to the land of the free, he writes, I never abandoned my rebellious Romanian generation, within which I'd been raised a baby dissident destined for great...



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