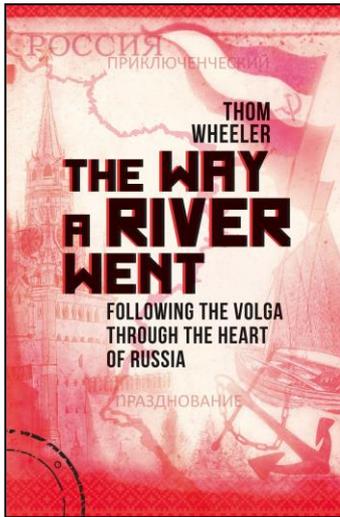


PRESS RELEASE: RUSSIA BEYOND THE HEADLINES

Two extraordinary and dangerous journeys meeting the real people of Russia
EXCITING, REVEALING AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING TRAVEL WRITING



THE WAY A RIVER WENT

FOLLOWING THE VOLGA THROUGH THE HEART OF RUSSIA

by Thom Wheeler

'My fee is very little. However, I give you a chance to keep your money.'
This was the first I'd heard that there was a chance I'd be parting with my money, but by then it came as no surprise. I was beginning to suspect the word for 'free' had been removed from the Russian lexicon.
'I will wrestle you.' Now this I hadn't been expecting

ISBN: 978 1 84953 744 5 Paperback 267 pages RRP: £9.99 Summersdale 2015
Available through: all good bookshops and internet booksellers. (Also available as an ebook)

Thom Wheeler is not a man to be put off by the prospect of an uncharted, impractical or downright dangerous journey. Having accidentally introduced his old school friend Vicky to Dmitry, the Russian love of her life, at the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg, Thom decides to travel to their wedding in Astrakhan in the least straightforward way: by following the Volga river, from its source over 1,000 miles inland, all the way to the Caspian Sea and a party to remember...

Interspersed with fascinating insights into the history, politics and culture of the places Thom visits, together with eye-opening encounters and hair-raising experiences, *The Way a River Went* is an unforgettable adventure.

Also, by the same author ...



ONE STEPPE BEYOND

ACROSS RUSSIA IN A VW CAMPER

A crazy road trip across the former Soviet Union in a dilapidated old VDub
When Uncle Tony asks Thom and his friend to drive to Vladivostok, they can't think of one good reason to say 'nyet'. The result is a classic caper across the former Soviet Union in Max, a rusty old VW camper. Knowing little of the language or the geography ahead, they embark on probably the longest commute ever, encountering corrupt officials, film star mechanics and over-friendly gangsters. Far off the tourist trail, they bear witness to the collapse of one nation and the birth of a new one during the free-for-all that was Russia in the nineties.

ISBN: 978 1 84953 156 6 Paperback 297 pages RRP: £8.99 Summersdale 2011
Available through: all good bookshops and internet booksellers. (Also available as an ebook)

About the author: Thom Wheeler studied Russian at university and returned to live in St Petersburg for several years, earning a living teaching and guiding, while also reviewing bands for the Russian *Big Issue*. Since then he has lived and worked in Ukraine, Estonia, Georgia and the UK. Thom now lives in **Brighton**.

Media opportunities: Extracts/serialisation. The author is available for interviews.

Almost 30 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, these two books offer a unique insight into the history, politics and culture of Russia. Through the author's eyes, we meet the real people of Russia – beyond the Putin-led headlines.



To request a review copy of either book to be put in touch with the author, please contact
Elly Donovan PR elly@ellydonovan.co.uk tel: 01273 205 246 / 0790 508 7779 www.ellydonovan.co.uk
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