



Red Plenty

By Francis Spufford

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Red Plenty By Francis Spufford

"Spufford cunningly maps out a literary genre of his own . . . Freewheeling and fabulous." ?*The Times* (London)

Strange as it may seem, the gray, oppressive USSR was founded on a fairy tale. It was built on the twentieth-century magic called "the planned economy," which was going to gush forth an abundance of good things that the lands of capitalism could never match. And just for a little while, in the heady years of the late 1950s, the magic seemed to be working. *Red Plenty* is about that moment in history, and how it came, and how it went away; about the brief era when, under the rash leadership of Khrushchev, the Soviet Union looked forward to a future of rich communists and envious capitalists, when Moscow would out-glitter Manhattan and every Lada would be better engineered than a Porsche. It's about the scientists who did their genuinely brilliant best to make the dream come true, to give the tyranny its happy ending.

Red Plenty is history, it's fiction, it's as ambitious as *Sputnik*, as uncompromising as an Aeroflot flight attendant, and as different from what you were expecting as a glass of Soviet champagne.

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Red Plenty By Francis Spufford Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #138856 in Books
- Brand: Graywolf Press
- Published on: 2012-02-14
- Released on: 2012-02-14
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.14" h x 1.26" w x 5.50" l, 1.24 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 448 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"A marvel... a work, by turns learned and lyrical, that grows by degree, accreting into something lasting: a replica in miniature of a world of ideas never visible to most, and now gone." -- Andrew Meier, *New York Times Book Review*

"At the end of the first chapter... I printed a nerdy but heartfelt word: 'Bravo'. I felt like giving the author a little bow, or maybe a one-man standing O." -- Dwight Garner, *The New York Times*

"An engrossing, and at times deeply moving historical drama." -- Max McGuinness, *The Daily Beast*

"A hammer-and-sickle version of Altman's Nashville, with central committees replacing country music . . . [Spufford] has one of the most original minds in contemporary literature." ?Nick Hornby, *The Believer*

"A thrilling book that all enthusiasts of the Big State should read." ?Michael Burleigh, *The Sunday Telegraph*

About the Author

Francis Spufford is the author of *The Child That Books Built* and two other books. In 2007 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. He teaches writing at Goldsmiths College and lives near Cambridge.

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