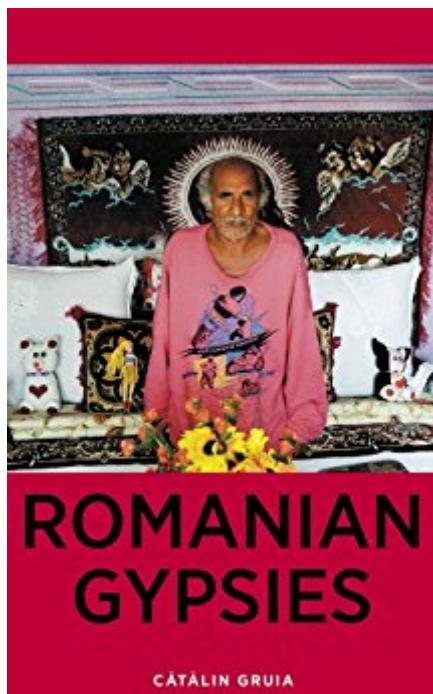


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# Romanian Gypsies: 9 True Stories About What It's Like To Be A Gypsy In Romania (Romania Explained To My Friends Abroad Book 3)



## Synopsis

RAW GYPSIES Nine true stories Limbos and another seven or eight Gypsies from Mocirla (â œThe Swampâ •), on the outskirts of Romanian town Buhusi were at old Savaâ ™s pub again last night, gathered around a 2 \$ bottle of liqueur. One of them had just come back from Italy: a very big guy, with a tight shirt, with a mean face, with expressionless, predatory eyes that looked you right in the brain. And they were celebrating this interlopâ ™s return home. Then, another one came down from the hill, with clay on his head, dead tired. He had worked all day at sticking together a house with clay for 3 \$. And with that 3 \$, he bought everyone drinks: â œDrink up guys, â ^cause now I have money!â • The conversation that followed was hypothetical â “ although the most frequently pronounced word was â œeda burlîâ • (fuck) â “ about what was better for a Gypsy: to steal and cash in big all at once or to work honestly for close to nothing?Wherever you are in Romania, â “ in any city or village â “, if you take a 30 minute walk in any direction, youâ ™ll find a community of poor Gypsies.Beside a minority that got rich exploiting barely-legal economic opportunities, for more than two thirds of some 1 million Romanian Gypsies, the tumultuous years following the fall of communism meant a transition towards hopeless poverty, delinquency, and violence. They were among the first laid off during the restructuring of the 1990s and many did not manage to get rehired. About 70% of the Gypsieslive from Minimum Income Guarantee (financial aid from the State) and occasional activities. 80% have no profession. Life in the Swamp Like Mocirla (â œThe Swampâ •), almost every poor Gypsy community is affected by the same â œshortagesâ • when it comes to:â œjobsâ œincomeâ œeducationâ œaccess to medical servicesâ œidentity cardsâ œproperty titlesâ œdirty, overcrowded houses Who are these Gypsies? This is a story about what itâ ™s like to be a Gypsy (Roma) in Romania. A story told by the Gypsies themselves. For their protection (and my own), the names of the places and of the characters have been changed.Over 14 hours of interviews were edited for concision and clarity. Certain regionalisms, flagrant language and grammar mistakes were straightened out here and there. Author Catalin Gruia is a veteran journalist who has written and reported for over 10 years for the Romanian edition of National Geographic.Cover Photo by Bogdan Croitoru\* You can find behind the scenes information about Gruia's books --><https://www.facebook.com/ByCatalinGruia>

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book is extremely short. I read it in less than a couple hours. It had many short interviews with some Roma listening to how they viewed their life. It also had a very concise history of the Roma in the back but with no sources to the information. It is a decent read for someone who just wants a very broad stroke understand of the life of gypsies in Romania. Not recommend for anyone who is doing in-depth research on the Roma.

These fascinating portraits of Romanian Gypsies need to be fleshed out. The book features very brief transcripts of Interviews the author conducted at a poor Gypsy village. They are all spellbinding, but very short. The writer needs to tell us more and include photographs.

The stories in the book shed a new, more complex light, from the inside, into what being a gypsy in Romania is like. Some of the stories made me sad, some of the stories outraged me. All of them kept me reading until their end. Even though I did have previous knowledge on the subject, the interviews here presented filled in some gaps and reinforced other parts. It is sometimes necessary to get a slap on the face from Reality (and this is what the interviews in the book do), in order to realize what color the real world we live in has. The interviews are minimally corrected so what comes through during reading is the precise way of thinking of the community interviewed.

This book was very interesting. It was nice to read a first hand account of how Gypsies live and are treated. I didn't find it depressing as it made it's point without dragging it out. The book was short but made up for it by including a brief and interesting section of history of Gypsies going back many generations.

"Outsiders who see Mocirla's nearly 200 run-down houses from their cars on the way to Roman, spread out randomly like a sick swarm of bees on a hill on the outskirts of Buhusi, raise their eyebrows and speed up. Townspeople are afraid to climb up here: most of the gypsies have empty bellies, sly gazes, sharp tongues, and quick hands." The author gets accepted and moves into Mocirla (The Swamp) to become a Gypsy in order to be able to tell their story in an objective way. (Romanians consider Gypsies almost an inferior race and after centuries of prejudice they seem to have a real problem in speaking about Gypsies in correct, no discriminative fashion. This is why the author decided for this formula in which the Gypsies get to tell their own stories.) I've read the Swamp story with a lot of pleasure. If you want to understand the Real Romanians Gypsies (not demonized, not romanticized) this is the book you need.

I've always been fascinated with the history of gypsies. Their entire culture is so different from most other cultures, so I was hoping to learn more about their nomadic lifestyles. The book is very short and each gypsy interviewed, left me wondering more about their life.

Well written, but much too short. The stories are very brief and woefully lacking in detail and development. It left me wanting to know much more. As it is, it is little more than a pamphlet. Still, I found myself caring very deeply for these abused people.

A very comprehensive anthropological study of the Gypsies in the Mocirla community and in Romania in general. An easy to read book, complete with descriptions of the traditional jobs the Gypsies had, as well as a short history of the Romanian Gypsies structured as a timeline. What is the most important about this book is that it contains real stories that the Gypsies tell themselves. This way the reader can understand them better, he/she can cry, suffer and laugh with the Gypsies of Mocirla. Again the author writes a book that takes into account the wider context instead of presenting a one sided story. The best way to write about the Gypsies is by actually living with them, and Catalin Gruia was brave enough to do this at a time when the Mocirla Gypsies were angry with

the white Romanians.I really enjoyed this book!

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