

Lost in Moscow

A Brat in the USSR



KIRSTEN KOZA

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by Kirsten Koza

In 1977, at the height of the Cold War, Kirsten Koza's parents packed their daughter's suitcase, put fifty dollars in her sweaty little hands and sent her off to summer camp in the Soviet Union.

In such an unlikely situation, what's an eleven-year-old Canadian girl to do but raise as much hell as politely as she can? And raise hell she does, from getting chased by gun-toting soldiers for illegally crossing Red Square and bribing directions from old ladies with maple leaf pins to undergoing radiation treatments for a sore throat and making an unauthorized parachute jump in equipment three sizes too big. The "red menace" never stood a chance.

Part travel memoir, part cautionary tale to parents about releasing their precocious children into the wilds of foreign countries, *Lost in Moscow* is a funny and fascinating look at the Western World's bogeyman of the day – communism – through the fresh eyes of a child.

Kirsten Koza grew up in Cheltenham and now lives in Toronto.

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