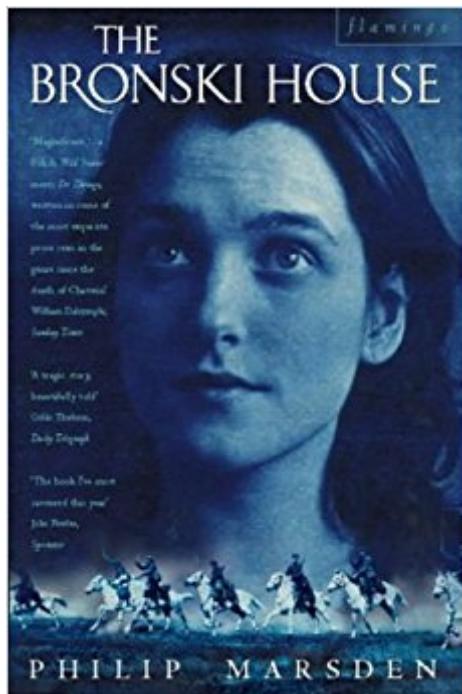


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The Bronski House: A Return To The Borderlands



Synopsis

More than fifty years after fleeing the Russians and Nazis, poet Zofia Ilinska returns to the tiny Eastern European village of her birth to find her old home and to rediscover her childhood and the history of her family." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This whole terrible world is upside down," exiled Polish poet Zofia Bronska Ilinska tells English author Marsden (*The Crossing Place: A Journey Among the Armenians*, LJ 4/15/95) as they revisit the Eastern Europe of her childhood. Published in Britain in 1996, this work combines an account of 1990s Belarus, based on Marsden's travels with Ilinska, with an interpretation of the past, drawn from her mother's journals and papers from the outset of World War I to the start of World War II. The traumas of war are intermingled with the everyday life of two generations of young women coming of age. In scenes reminiscent of *Doctor Zhivago*, the book powerfully depicts the effects of war on a wealthy family who became impoverished refugees. Plagued by constantly shifting borders, the family also moved from place to place as they fled the ever-changing enemy?sometimes German, sometimes Russian, sometimes their Belorussian neighbors. A moving account; highly recommended for all libraries.?Denise J. Stankovics, Rockville P.L., Vernon, Ct.Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The late poet Zofia Ilinska, nee Bronski, fled Poland in September 1939 at the start of World War II;

she was 17. Along with her mother, Zofia settled on the English coast in Cornwall. In 1993, after receiving a letter from a cousin in Poland asking her to visit, Zofia returned to her native village. She was accompanied by her longtime friend, writer Philip Marsden. She looked for the family home and the silver candlesticks she had buried in the forest. She found neither, but a few of the villagers remembered her. Marsden intertwines the story of Zofia's journey with her mother's letters, notebooks, and diaries, hundreds of pages that bring the world of Zofia's family's prewar past in Europe to life. Both a requiem for a vanished world and a tribute to a remarkable woman. George Cohen --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Beautifully told. Touching.

I found this book online and was so excited to find a copy on . The two main female characters are actually distant family members, my great aunt and my great great aunt. I never knew either as they lived out of the USA. Thanks to this book, I was able to learn what strong and smart women my ancestors were !!

If you ever stumble across "The Bronksi House" buy it or borrow it, but read it you must. I count it as one of the greatest reading privileges of my life. Philip Marsden invites his reader to accompany him on a set of journeys, deeply personal, unforgettably moving and incredibly uplifting. Marsden's writing is poetry, so light and inviting you are engrossed in the tale he reconstructs in an instant. The people in his story are real and so are the places, they just happen to have been the cauldron that was Eastern Europe during the years of two World Wars, revolution and collapse of empires. The social turmoil this gave rise to provides the dramatic backdrop to a book which is a tapestry of life, filled with hope, sorrow, striving, laughter and above all, love. In a short read, you will be transported beyond all the boundaries that seem to constrain our being - time, death and war - to share something magical from a forgotten corner of Europe's badlands.

The language is so poetic and fluent, it hurls you away, lightly and fluffily to a different era; a world long gone and forgotten. It has something of an East European Gone With The Wind theme, only much more concise and fleetingly. I longed for more pages, a hundred more, fivehundred more, in this novel too timid and subdued somehow. Perfect script for a fullblown-no-expenses -spared Hollywood film!

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