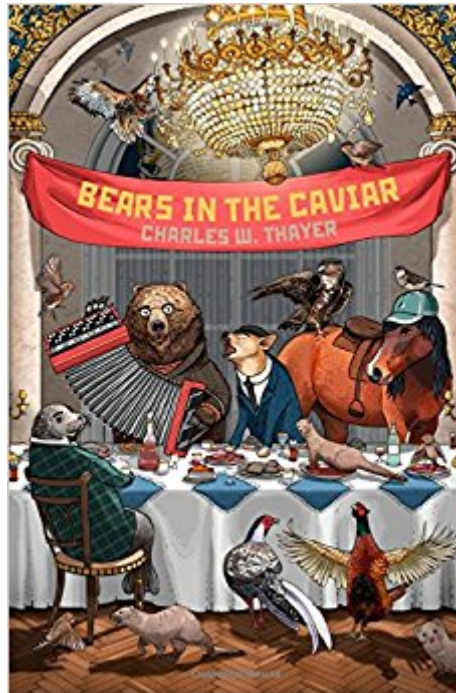




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Bears In The Caviar



Synopsis

Bears in the Caviar is a hilarious and insightful memoir by a diplomat who was "present at the creation" of US-Soviet relations. Charles Thayer headed off to Russia in 1933, calculating that if he could just learn Russian and be on the spot when the US and USSR established relations, he could make himself indispensable and start a career in the foreign service. Remarkably, he pulled it off. This was but the first in a string of daring moves that kept Thayer in the thick of all things Russian for the next two decades. Architect of the infamous party that Mikhail Bulgakov used to imagine his famous ball scene in *Master and Margarita*, Senior Polo Instructor to the Red Army, translator to ambassadors, sparring partner for Vyshinsky, drinking partner of Budyonny, nemesis of the KGB, and, oh yes, Third Secretary in the Foreign Service, Charles Thayer was a boundlessly resourceful, creative and fun-loving public servant. In this memoir (out of print for half a century), he offers an unparalleled look behind the scenes of diplomatic life in Russia (and Germany, Iran and Afghanistan) before and during World War II. For anyone with even a passing interest in US-Russian history, this is a priceless memoir to read and savor.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

CHARLES THAYER served for seven years as a diplomat in Soviet Russia (1933-1937 and 1940-1942), spanning one of the most significant periods of US-Russian relations. He subsequently opened the US Legation in Kabul, served in the army and OSS, and as head of Voice of America. A gifted storyteller and humorist, his memoir is entertaining and timeless.

This is a hilarious recounting of how our first embassy in Moscow was procured and transformed into the official US embassy (and residence) during the darkest part of WW2 and during Stalin's internal repression. It has just been republished due to continued demand for this very entertaining book. It's now even been translated into Russian! After more than 64 years since it hit the NYT best seller list this book continues to charm readers.

Thoroughly engrossing and very witty writing. A fascinating read about the establishment of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow in 1933. Thayer was a master story teller!

Just finishing this up and it is a keep reading as the writer entertains you while providing historical insights into the time when Russia and US were 'friendly' ...

Great book. I am currently stationed in Moscow and it is a great historical reference.

Enlightening humorous anecdotes of a time when the world was more manageable

Entertaining book.

A great gift for Russian majors old and young!

Very entertaining read. Timeless antics by a very accomplished man that makes the impossible look easy and sublime. Interesting juxtaposition with events and places today - even in the prelude to and in the midst of World War II the world seemed a more civil place than it is today.

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