



My Family and Other Enemies

Life and Travels in Croatia's Hinterland

MARY NOVAKOVICH

Thirty years on from the Yugoslav Wars, a unique and personal travelogue from an award-winning journalist

- Opens up a world that is little known outside the Balkans, telling the stories of people whose experiences weren't reported at the time
- A renowned and well-connected writer on the area: wide-ranging publicity expected
- Bradt's lead title for summer: will be submitted for all relevant literary prizes

My Family and Other Enemies is part travelogue, part memoir that dives into the hinterland of Croatia. Mary Novakovich explores her ongoing relationship with the region of Lika in central Croatia, where her parents were born.. 'Lika is little known to most travellers – apart from Plitvice Lakes National Park and the birthplace of Nikola Tesla' she says. 'It's a region of wild beauty that has been battered by centuries of conflict. Used as a buffer zone between the Habsburg and Ottoman empires for hundreds of years, Lika became a land of war and warriors. And when Yugoslavia started to disintegrate in 1991, it was here where some of the first shots were fired.'

Shipped off to Lika as a child during the supposedly golden years of Tito to stay with relatives she barely knew, Novakovich has been revisiting Croatia ever since, researching the story of her family's often harrowing life: in 1941 her aunt was the only survivor of Serbs massacred by Croatian fascists; and her mother saved her grandmother from being buried alive when she was thought to be dead from typhus.

In recounting her own family's tumultuous history, Novakovich opens up a world that is little known outside the Balkans, telling the stories of people whose experiences weren't widely reported at the time, when the devastation in Croatia was superseded by the Bosnian conflict and media attention moved elsewhere.

Mary Novakovich is a journalist and travel writer based in Hertfordshire. She contributes regularly to UK publications including the *Guardian*, *Telegraph*, *Independent*, *Times*, *Evening Standard* and many others. She is also the contributing travel editor of *The Lady* magazine, and broadcasts radio reports for the BBC's *From Our Own Correspondent*. Born to Serbian parents from Croatia, she has written extensively about the countries of the former Yugoslavia, in particular Croatia and Serbia, which she first visited in 1976. She has written a number of guidebooks to Croatia for Insight Guides and Berlitz.



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