



White Field, Black Sheep: A Lithuanian-American Life

Daiva Markelis

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Her parents never really explained what a D.P. was. Years later Daiva Markelis learned that “displaced person” was the designation bestowed upon European refugees like her mom and dad who fled communist Lithuania after the war. Growing up in the Chicago suburb of Cicero, though, Markelis had only heard the name *T.P.*, since her folks pronounced the D as a T: “In first grade we had learned about the Plains Indians, who had lived in tent-like dwellings made of wood and buffalo skin called *teepees*. In my childish confusion, I thought that perhaps my parents weren’t Lithuanian at all, but Cherokee. I went around telling people that I was the child of teepees.” So begins this touching and affectionate memoir about growing up as a daughter of Lithuanian immigrants.

Markelis was raised during the 1960s and 1970s in a household where Lithuanian was the first language. *White Field, Black Sheep* derives much of its charm from this collision of old world and new: a tough but cultured generation that can’t quite understand the ways of America and a younger one weaned on Barbie dolls and *The Brady Bunch*, Hostess cupcakes and comic books, *The Monkees* and *Captain Kangaroo*. Throughout, Markelis recalls the amusing contortions of language and identity that animated her childhood. She also humorously recollects the touchstones of her youth, from her First Communion to her first game of Twister. Ultimately, she revisits the troubles that surfaced in the wake of her assimilation into American culture: the constricting expectations of her family and community, her problems with alcoholism and depression, and her sometimes contentious but always loving relationship with her mother.

Defly recreating the emotional world of adolescence, but overlaying it with the hard-won understanding of adulthood, *White Field, Black Sheep* is a poignant and moving memoir—a lively tale of this Lithuanian-American life.

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Edward Schanz:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read the book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent all day long to reading a guide. The book White Field, Black Sheep: A Lithuanian-American Life it is quite good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book has high quality.

Kristi Jones:

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