

## A foreign affair – Alex Frishberg

Frishberg takes a few liberties in his expansive adjectives, but it is a fun story

The women in Kyiv are as beautiful as any in the world, but it is hard to believe that there are that many world-class stunners left in poor, dirty, backwater Kriviy Rij. The women are neither as stunning nor as satanic as Frishberg would portray them in this novel. Thank goodness! He does, however, cover the Kyiv nightlife scene very well. A Westerner with a handsome bankroll coming to Kyiv for the first time should read this book, map in hand, and mark off the places where the beautiful people hang out. They're pretty much as described.

Frishberg doesn't describe the other side of the coin, the one he knows just as well, which is how wonderfully unpretentious, down to earth, good-natured and loving the women in this city can be. A partygoer who is seeking only the most attractive and beddable women will not be disappointed in what he finds, but a guy who is looking for something more real, a nice girl who is more than middling good-looking, is reasonably intelligent and well-educated, and just wants a nice guy who meets the standard criteria: single straight and solvent, with lots of extra points for sobriety, will find time spent here well rewarded. They are delightfully old-fashioned - family and children. Don't, however, put yourselves in the hands of a dating agency as Frishberg's protagonist does. Just come and spend some time here, rubbing shoulders with business people, social clubs, service clubs and the like, and you should have no trouble meeting women who will put a smile on your face. Take this book as a lesson in looking for love in all the wrong places, starting in the best of all places, Kyiv.