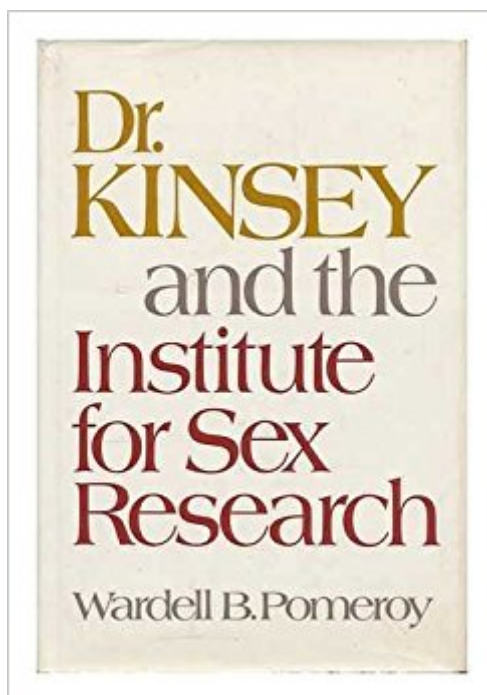


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# Two Lives, One Russia



## Synopsis

Nicholas Daniloff's arrest by the KGB in the fall of 1986 made headlines around the world, but the roots of that story ran deeper than anyone knew. Daniloff's imprisonment was in fact an echo of his family's past, for his great-great grandfather, Alexander Frolov, was also a prisoner of the Russian state. In this rich and absorbing book, Daniloff weaves a double narrative that vividly brings two worlds to life. Nicholas Daniloff offers a unique and deeply personal book, and its twin stories are true, revealing, and always compelling. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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Nicholas Daniloff is Professor of Journalism at Northeastern University. His previous books include *The Kremlin and the Cosmos* and *Two Lives, One Russia*. He lives in Andover, Vermont, and Cambridge, Massachusetts. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

This gem of a book is a spy story, a detective mystery, a personal memoir and the history of a family spanning nearly two centuries. Nicholas Daniloff was finishing a five year tour as U. S. News and

World Report's bureau chief in 1986 Moscow, when he was kidnapped by the KGB, thrown into prison and charged with being a spy for the United States. Daniloff tells his harrowing story along with a second story he had ferreted out while living in the U.S.S.R. That was the story of his great-great-grandfather's 1826 arrest and life sentence to Siberia for his affiliation with the Decembrists and participation in their unsuccessful attempt to assassinate Czar Nicholas. There is a sense of the Spirit of Elijah (Malachi 4:5-6) in Daniloff's drive to learn about and reconstruct the life and legacy of his ancestors. Two Lives, One Russia is very well written with easy transitions between two distant time periods. For young people who have little knowledge of the fear-filled world behind the "iron curtain", this would be an enlightening reading experience.

Keep in mind, that I am a complete Russophile. I studied Russian for two years, spent months in Russia in the 90s. So this book touches me in ways that are personal. I read this book every few years, and I'm starting to think my original copy is wearing thin. This book is divided into two storylines that weave a united theme. The first part is an account of the author's own detention and interrogation under the time of Gorbachev leadership. Nicholas Daniloff was the Soviet reporter for US News & World Report in the 1980's. He was one day grabbed off the street and what follows is an account with as much intrigue as a Robert Ludlum novel. It hits hard, those who lived during the Cold War of the 80's. The second story line is that of the author's investigating and eventually unraveling of the story of his Great-great-great grandfather who was a minor member in the Decembrist revolt in 1825. Daniloff's investigation of the history of his ancestor shows the warm nature of Russians and the power of History that survived through communist Russia. When Daniloff, tells the account of his Great-great-great grandfather, it brings up images of Tolstoy. All in all, this book brings an amazing account of the Russian people in two periods of oppression. The warm nature of Russians has always been from within, and this book shows that. Give this book a try, if you love great non-fiction stories, this one should be at the top of your list. Note: I contacted Nicholas Daniloff via email a few years ago, to tell him how much I loved this book. He actually replied and took to heart the fact that his and his ancestor's story meant so much to someone.

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