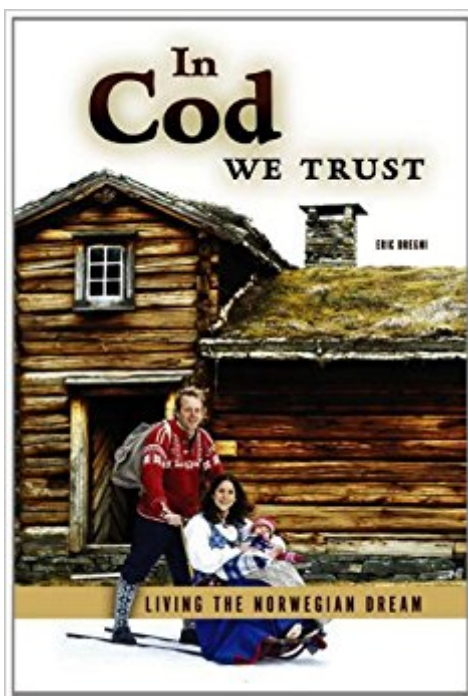


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# In Cod We Trust: Living The Norwegian Dream



## Synopsis

Eric Dregniâ€™s great-grandfather Ellef fled Norway in 1893 when it was the poorest country in Europe. More than one hundred years later, his great-grandson traveled back to find thatâ€™mostly due to oil and natural gas discoveriesâ€™it is now the richest. The circumstances of his return were serendipitous, as the notice that Dregni won a Fulbright Fellowship to go there arrived the same week as the knowledge that his wife Katy was pregnant. Braving a birth abroad and benefiting from a remarkably generous health care system, the Dregniâ€™ family came full circle when their son Eilif was born in Norway. In this cross-cultural memoir, Dregni tells the hair-raising, hilarious, and sometimes poignant stories of his familyâ€™s yearlong Norwegian experiment. Among the exploits he details are staying warm in a remote grass-roofed hytte (hut), surviving a dinner of rakfisk (fermented fish) thanks to 80-proof aquavit, and identifying his great-grandfatherâ€™s house in the Lusterfjord only to find out it had been crushed by a boulder and then swept away by a river. To subsist on a student stipend, he rides the meat bus to Sweden for cheap salami with a busload of knitting pensioners. A week later, he and his wife travel to the Lofoten Islands and gnaw on klippefisk (dried cod) while cats follow them through the streets. Dregniâ€™s Scandinavian roots do little to prepare him and his family for the year in Trondheim eating herring cakes, obeying the conformist Janteloven (Janteâ€™s law), and enduring the mÃ¶rketid (dark time). In *Cod We Trust* is one Minnesota familyâ€™s spirited excursion into Scandinavian life. The land of the midnight sun is far stranger than they previously thought, and their encounters show that there is much we can learn from its unique and surprising culture.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Eric Dregni's spirited travel memoir to Norway joins that classic American genre—the quest tale in search of family and ethnic roots. It's a special pleasure to see the Scandinavian immigration story teased out here with wit and acuity, the immigrant going the other way. In *Cod We Trust* is the story of a man not only looking for his family past but welcoming the next generation."—Patricia Hampl "A hilariously fun and moving read for anyone who has dreamed of returning to the Norwegian homeland."—Walter Mondale "Eric Dregni's deceptively delightful *In Cod We Trust* combines understated humor and serious scholarship. Readers will finish this book smiling, realizing they've been taught much about Norway's past and present—including its model health care system—while being entertained by a colicky baby testing his parents' patience. Part travelogue, part examination of how the immigrant experience affects generations on both sides of the Atlantic, Dregni's self-effacing Scandinavian style is a welcome treat."—Arvonne Fraser

Eric Dregni's great-grandfather Ellef fled Norway in 1893 when it was the poorest country in Europe. More than one hundred years later, his great-grandson traveled back to find that—mostly due to oil and natural gas discoveries—it is now the richest. The circumstances of his return were serendipitous, as the notice that Dregni won a Fulbright Fellowship to go there arrived the same week as the knowledge that his wife Katy was pregnant. Braving a birth abroad and benefiting from a remarkably generous health care system, the Dregni family came full circle when their son Eilif was born in Norway. In this cross-cultural memoir, Dregni tells the hair-raising, hilarious, and sometimes poignant stories of his family's yearlong Norwegian experiment. Among the exploits he details are staying warm in a remote grass-roofed hytte (hut), surviving a dinner of rakfisk (fermented fish) thanks to 80-proof aquavit, and identifying his great-grandfather's house in the Lusterfjord only to find out it had been crushed by a boulder and then swept away by a river. To subsist on a student stipend, he rides the meat bus to Sweden for cheap salami with a busload of knitting pensioners. A week later, he and his wife travel to the Lofoten Islands and gnaw on klippefisk (dried cod) while cats follow them through the streets. Dregni's Scandinavian roots do little to prepare him and his family for the year in Trondheim eating herring cakes, obeying the conformist Janteloven (Jante's law), and enduring the mørketid (dark time). In *Cod We Trust* is one Minnesota family's spirited excursion into Scandinavian life. The land of the midnight sun is far stranger than they previously thought, and their encounters show that there is much we can learn from its unique and surprising culture. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

A young man and pregnant wife move to Trondheim, Norway for a year of research. We know about the relatives who came here; this is the experience of one of us who goes there and finds the Norwegians just as strange as the Americans must have been to my grandparents. Along the way we learn about their health care system, their social mores (ÅŒJantelovenÅŒ), their food and Aquavit, the meat bus to Sweden, what to do when the sun doesn't come up and the Home Land. Absolutely delightful.

I loved this book! It was cute and funny and a great light read while my dad, my husband, and I were traipsing around Norway this summer.

I have read this book a couple of times and also sent it as a gift to a relative. Who knew Norway is oil-rich? I didn't! The book gives good insight into modern Norwegian culture. It is funny and very interesting as the author and his wife try to make their way in their new (ancestral) homeland. For instance: some Norwegians bundle their babies up and put them outside to sleep! I have been sleeping with my window open since I read this...evidently cold air is good for you. And I am desperate to try porridge! You will enjoy this book.

Liked it. Nice first person account.

This narrative describes the experiences of an American couple living in Norway. Their description and reaction to the local customs are interesting for other Americans who plan to visit this country.

Super good read. Well written. My grandfather immigrated from Norway and I am always looking for more and more info and personal views and insights to the people and culture that is my heritage - this book provided that! Takke!

The author's words reflect the feelings we had on a visit to Norway. It was like taking the trip all over again --a great reflection of the country and the people.

This is a fun tongue-in-cheek review of Norwegian customs. Written from the point of view of a Norwegian-American who seeks his roots and finds Norway quite a bit different from what he had imagined back in the U.S. I highly recommend this book for anyone traveling to Norway and also for people who enjoy cross-cultural comparisons.

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