

## The Author

Brigitte Schulze was professionally active in Ukraine for more than twenty-five years. She began in Kiev as a freelance correspondent for numerous German media. Then, as a consultant for media policies, she promoted the professional development of journalists in Ukraine. In Odessa, she served several years as an advisor for cultural promotion and tourism. For her dedicated commitment to the presentation of an authentic picture of Ukraine to the rest of the world, in her travel guides and other publications, the Council for Tourism and Health Resorts in Kiev awarded her the title of *Ambassador for Ukrainian Tourism*. Repeatedly in the past, she had plans to leave Ukraine but a new, interesting project always detained her. When the conflict in East Ukraine began, she was in action again, this time as an observer with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Her precise observations and, in particular, her numerous personal contacts with the people in Ukraine give her a profound understanding of the country. In her travel books she describes her encounters with the Ukrainian people and country with sensitivity and empathy. Now, in this book, she presents a very personal view of her life and experiences in Ukraine. She intensively experienced the development of Ukraine during the years before and since independence in 1991. This makes her anecdotes and reports about this country so authentic.

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*Sasha, pour  
one more!*

*With love and vodka  
through 25 years in Ukraine*

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