The Romance Of American Communism

Vivian Gornick

Romance Writers of America (RWA) is a national non-profit genre writers association. It provides networking and support to individuals seriously pursuing a career in romance fiction and supports top authors such as Nora Roberts and Judith McNaught. Founded in 1980 in Houston, Texas by romance editor Vivian Stephens and 37 authors in the romance genre, including Rita Clay Estrada and Parris Afton Bonds, first President and Vice President, the RWA has long been an advocacy group for their published Journals. The Review of Politics. Volume 40 Issue 3. Love Story: The American Commun English | FranÃ§ais. The Review of Politics. Article. Article. Love Story: The American Communist Party - Vivian Gornick: The Romance of American Communism. (New York: Basic Books, 1977. Pp. xiii, 265. Her purpose is to recall the humanity of the Communist experience, that is, to show that while some were or became scoundrels, others were decent, selfless people who found themselves trapped by their idealism. That last phrase of mine imposes upon her book an idea that Ms. Gornick prefers not to confront: the idea that, quite apart from the usual risks of alloy and contamination, idealism can in its very purity be a source of moral corruption. Even while repeating the usual criticisms of the Party, she tries hard to salvage the good intentions and earnest commitments of its members. You know why most Communists aren’t politically active today? Because they can’t stand the thought of ever going to another meeting! A lot of [Party activity] was just sheer grinding shitwork.
To begin with -- They came from everywhere: all kinds of beginnings: The Jewish Marxists: Sarah Gordon, Ben Saltzman, Selma Gardinsky, Joe Preisen, Belle Rothman, Paul Levinson. The Dos Passos immigrants: Dick Nikowsski. The American populists: Will Barnes, Blossom Sheed, Jim Holbrook. Those of the middle kingdom: Mason Goode, Arthur Chessler, Marian Moran, Diana Michaels -- Living it out: from vision to dogma and halfway back: The ordinariness of daily activity and the revolution around the corner: Sarah Gordon, Selma Gardinsky, Blossom Sheed. The wholeness of the CP world: Dina Shapi See the article in its original context from April 11, 1999, Section 7, Page 36 Buy Reprints. View on timesmachine. TimesMachine is an exclusive benefit for home delivery and digital subscribers. LOVE IN EXILE. An American Writer's Memoir. Of Life in Divided Berlin. By Edith Anderson. 404 pp. South Royalton, Vt.: Steerforth Press. $29.50. During their long romance with Soviet Communism, very few American radicals ever emigrated to the Eastern bloc. The road to Moscow usually stopped at the Left Bank, where the workers' paradise could be imagined from afar. Edith Anderson, who moved to
Communism became their religion and they could be quite insistent that it was the only way. This black and white view of life comes through in the book. The book could very well be describing the lives of religious fanatics and, in a way, they were. Their church was the Communist Party, USA and their holy land was the USSR. Neither could do any wrong. This belief led to an even more overwhelming collapse when the truth of how they had not only been lied to by the party, the USSR, and others they worshipped but, more so, how they lied to themselves and those they loved, became evident. To begin with -- They came from everywhere : all kinds of beginnings: The Jewish Marxists : Sarah Gordon, Ben Saltzman, Selma Gardinsky, Joe Preisen, Belle Rothman, Paul Levinson. The Dos Passos immigrants : Dick Nikowsski. The American populists : Will Barnes, Blossom Sheed, Jim Holbrook. Those of the middle kingdom : Mason Goode, Arthur Chessler, Marian Moran, Diana Michaels -- Living it out : from vision to dogma and halfway back: The ordinariness of daily activity and the revolution around the corner : Sarah Gordon, Selma Gardinsky, Blossom Sheed. The wholeness of the CP world : Dina Shapi