



# **The Man They Killed on Christmas Day (Romania Explained To My Friends Abroad Book 1)**

*Catalin Gruia*

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## **Essential Ceausescu**

### **The Life of Romanian Communist Dictator Nicolae Ceausescu: Road to Hell Paved with Good Intentions**

A black dog licks at a puddle of blood in which two old people lie, executed on Christmas day in the Targoviste garrison, Romania. Following a kangaroo trial, a special tribunal sentenced them to death by shooting in December 1989 for “serious crimes against the people of Romania.” He died instantly. The woman died a minute later, after the execution squad’s paratroop captain furiously emptied another round in her. Thus Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu’s five-decade journey together ended, after they started from the bottom, seized power, and grew old while ruling the country.

### **Who Was That Man They Killed on Christmas Day**

Adulated for all of his 24 years in power, during which he came to personify Romania, Romanian communist dictator **Nicolae Ceausescu** – dethroned and replaced by some of his former barons – was turned into a scapegoat for all the evils done to Romanians. But the question remains: Between these two extremes, who was the real *Nicolae Ceausescu* ?

During his regime, Ceausescu's image had been painted in sparkling white. Once he was killed – everything turned to pitch black. This documentary aims to paint a portrait in color, with all shades of grey included, combining the good and bad, the light and the dark extremes of the life of Nicolae Ceausescu (aka Ceaucescu).

**This book is a concise journalistic style account of Ceausescu’s life, following his path through:**

- A miserable childhood
- A boyhood in prisons

- A rising youth in the Romanian Communist Party
- The honeymoon of his beginnings as the youngest ever political leader in Europe
- Times of glory and seizing absolute power
- The rough years of decline
- A violent death

## Ceausescu 101

Dear reader – stop here for a second, please!

You should know from the very beginning this is not an exhaustive, academic paper. Author Catalin Gruia is a veteran journalist who has written and reported for the Romanian edition of National Geographic for over 10 years. What you'll find here is a concise journalistic account of Ceausescu's life.

\* For behind the scenes information about Gruia's books --><https://www.facebook.com/ByCatalinGruia>

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