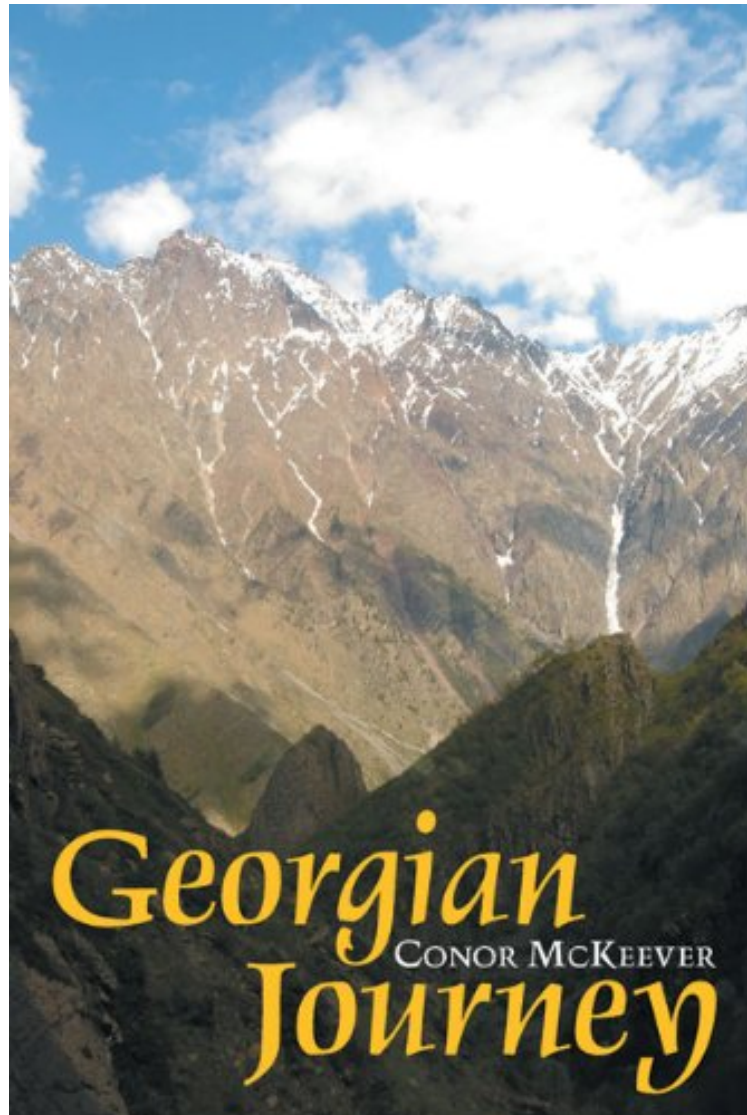


(Free and download) A Guest is a Gift from God: Travels in Georgia

## A Guest is a Gift from God: Travels in Georgia

*Conor McKeever*

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**Conor McKeever** : A Guest is a Gift from God: Travels in Georgia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Guest is a Gift from God: Travels in Georgia:

Georgia is an enchanting land, its scenery breathtaking. Few places on earth can match the snow covered High Caucasus that separate Georgia from Russia in the north, and that contrasts with the gentler valleys and exuberant rivers of the Lesser Caucasus bordering with Turkey. To the west is the spectacular Black Sea coast, and to the east,

where Georgia merges with Azerbaijan and Armenia, there is the beautiful stark semi-desert landscape tailor-made for poetry and contemplation. This is a story of Georgia of hard work and play, serious feasting, bizarre happenings, nail-biting journeys, poignant moments and constant fun. It tells how I, an innocent Irish fellow, threatened the life of Georgia's President on my first evening, but finished the evening introducing his body-guards to the delights of Irish Whiskey. I attended a dinner where Jesus was a guest; had a close encounter with Stalin's bed and bathroom; walked on the grave of a 12th Century king, helped to cure a sick cow in the High Caucasus, travelled through the Valley of the Devil to the Gates of the Alans, and survived that magnificent Georgian institution, the never-ending supra. I hope to introduce you to Georgia's generous friendly people, to its delicious food and wine, its mystical Christianity, its triumphs and troubles.

'The Republic of Georgia can rightly be described as the jewel of the Caucasus and that description is burnished to thrilling brilliance by Conor McKeever's sparkling descriptions of his time working there. The native soil of historic figures as disparate as Pushkin and Stalin, it played host to a series of roller-coaster adventures offering him beguiling insights into the land and its people, their traditions, their culture - and most of all their wonderful food. It's at times tempting to draw the occasional parallel between Georgia and my own Northern Ireland. Both are small countries inhabited by people with strong identities, deeply held beliefs, generous hearts and hefty appetites for fun. Conor's decision to devote the proceeds from his book to teacher training in Georgia is a wonderful reciprocal gesture towards a country that may yet adopt him as one of its sons.' Rt Hon Peter D. Robinson MLA, First Minister Northern Ireland Executive '... this book, with its excellent illustrations, is humorous and funny - an easy read which should stimulate an influx of tourists, keen to experience Georgia's history and its many wonderful buildings and cultural artefacts, not to mention its delicious Khachapuri cheese pies and other culinary delights! Who could have guessed that working as an educational consultant could be so much fun?' Dr Richard McMinn OBE (former Principal, Stranmillis University College, Belfast) 'Conor McKeever's book is an example of someone who lives to teach. Reading it I was reminded of a quote I came across recently about the power of teaching; "When you love people and have the desire to make a profound, positive impact upon the world, then will you have accomplished the meaning to live." Sasha Azevedo.' Margaret Ritchie MP About the Author Conor McKeever is a former history professor at Portadown College and an assistant chief inspector for the Education and Training Inspectorate of Northern Ireland. He has served as an international education and training consultant and has been elected to the Royal Society of Arts.