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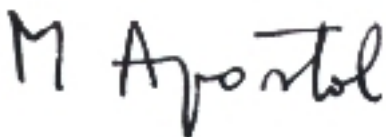
The Last Winter
by **Adrian Grigore**
(iUniverse, NY, 2004)

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Dr Adrian Grigore is a scientist, who holds a PhD. At the same time, he is a very gifted fiction writer. By now, Adrian Grigore is at his 4th book. His most recent ***The Last Winter*** is particularly significant for our scientific community, and endeared by many of us. Not only for Adrian Grigore's exceptional gift of writing clearly, significantly, attractively, but for his list of subjects, well-known by us, in Romania, less known abroad. This list comprises a frozen scientific library, the richest in Romania, left without heating in winters, because of the indifference of the administrators and politicians (now that library, placed in the most important scientific campus in Romania, is without current water too); practices of Ceausescu's and the communism regime's followers in Romania of nowadays; the blackmail, boycott and betrayal of the trade unions; lack of hope, understanding and determination of the Romanian intellectuals; the erratic actions and practices of the Romanian pseudo-intellectuals; the degradation and destruction of the scientific research and universities in Romania; the dissolution of the Romanian society. All these are well-known by the Romanian reader, or at least we all think we know them very well. However, ***The Last Winter*** teaches us their true significance, put them in a broader perspective, and help many of us to understand more deeply and profoundly the intimate causes and mechanisms of the tragedy Romania is experiencing today. By his, and our, ***Last Winter***, dr Adrian Grigore teaches us how deeply a society, otherwise well equipped and gifted, may decline under historical vicissitudes. ***The Last Winter*** is a vivid picture, depicted by a professional scientist, of an ex-communist society which falls in ruin in the post-communist era. It may be a historical instance.

The present English edition of ***The Last Winter*** at *iUniverse, Inc, NY*, benefits considerably of the exquisite translation from Romanian done by Miss Viviane Prager, who knows the subject by her own experience.



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IQ 133