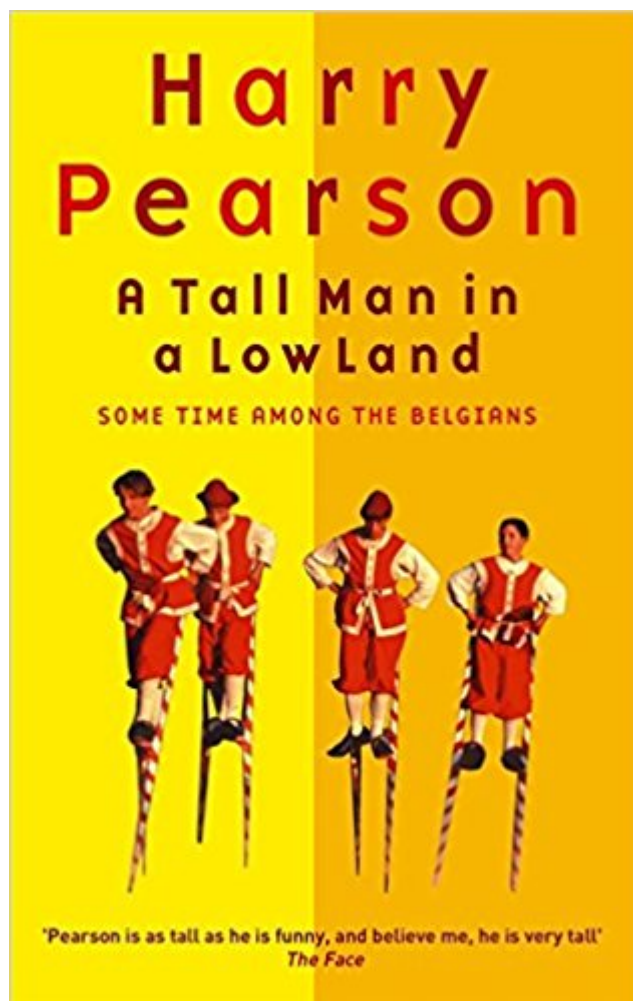


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A Tall Man In A Low Land



Synopsis

Most British travel writers head south for a destination that is hot, exotic, dangerous or all three. Harry Pearson chose to head in the opposite direction for a country which is damp, safe and of legendary banality: Belgium. But can any nation whose most famous monument is a statue of a small boy urinating really be that dull? Pearson lived there for several months, burying himself in the local culture. He drank many of the 800 different beers the Belgians produce; ate local delicacies such as kip kap (jellied pig cheeks) and a mighty tonnage of chicory and chips. In one restaurant the house speciality was 'Hare in the style of grandmother'. 'I didn't order it. I quite like hare, but had no wish to see one wearing zip-up boots and a blue beret.' **A TALL MAN IN A LOW LAND** commemorates strange events such as The Festival of Shrimps at Oostduinkerke and laments the passing of the Underpant Museum in Brussels. No reader will go away from **A TALL MAN IN A LOW LAND** without being able to name at least ten famous Belgians. Mixing evocative description and low-grade buffoonery Harry Pearson paints a portrait of Belgium that is more rounded than a Smurf after a night on the mussels.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Pearson is as tall as he is funny and, believe me, he is very tall. *THE FACE* funnier than Bill Bryson. *Pete Davies, THE INDEPENDENT* [Belgium] seems a great deal more interesting at the end of the book than it did at the beginning... Pearson is really funny. Do not read this book in a public place. *Jonathan Sale*

Harry Pearson was born on the day Petula Clark had her first number one hit single. His cousin is married to the chairman of the Rare Breeds Society. He is very tall.

I've been to Belgium a couple times and really like the culture which is what drew my attention to this book. I mostly enjoyed it. There were times where he jumped a little and it was hard to follow the timeline. There were also times where UK references were lost on me. If you have any interest of Belgium or off the path travel stories, I'd recommend picking a copy up.

Bought this for a recent trip to Belgium. Actually gave some really useful insights into how the country works--added a layer to the trip beyond the usual tourist guides. As funny a writer as I have read, wish he would publish more books. A fair amount of British cultural references obscure to this Yank reader, but they actually added more color to the writing. Very much recommended

If you are interested in Belgium and travel, this is a classic

There were multiple laugh-out-loud moments in this book, but I felt that it focused on a lot of minutiae about Belgium with not a lot of overview. The author, who is British, may have assumed European readers would have a higher level of familiarity with Belgium, but I felt like I missed out on a lot of the big picture. Especially since the only major city described is Brussels.

"A Tall Man in a Low Land" was both funny and informative from beginning to the end. Should be a must read for anyone making their first trip to Belgium, or for that matter old hands that have made the trip before. I learned more about Belgians and Belgian history from this book than I have from three visits to the country and a stack of travel guides. The author has perfectly captured the idiosyncratic character and customs of the Belgian people and their land that makes it a place I want to visit again and again.

I am sure that the frequent joking references to English (& some European) celebrities of the 1990's would appeal to some, but for other nationalities of readers, most of the humor falls flat. For someone contemplating travel to Belgium, the book is surprisingly devoid of help, other than perhaps places to avoid.

What a great book! As someone who's a Belgian-at-heart this met my expectations and more.

Interesting and funny, I read it cover to cover in one sitting. Afterwards I felt like I had enjoyed a wonderful, special dinner; full and satisfying. I found the book in good condition when it arrived as was promised. Only a few used copies were available when I ordered. Not sure if it's going out of print...

Laugh out loud fun. Highly entertaining travel story.

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