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## Racing Pigs and Giant Marrows: Travels Around the North Country Fairs (Windsor Selections)

*Harry Pearson*

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**Harry Pearson : Racing Pigs and Giant Marrows: Travels Around the North Country Fairs (Windsor Selections)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Racing Pigs and Giant Marrows: Travels Around the North Country Fairs (Windsor Selections):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. DelightfulBy ClarkeyThis is a very funny and wittily written book, and the author wears a considerable amount of scholarship extremely lightly. A highly enjoyable account of a neglected subject written with wry humour and tremendous affection.

Harry Pearson vowed that his next project would be about the summer—specifically, about a summer of shows and fairs in the north of England. Encompassing such diverse talents as fell-running, tupperware-boxing, and rabbit fancying (literally), and containing many more jokes about goats than is legal in the Isle of Man, Racing Pigs and Giant Marrows must be the only book in existence to explain the design faults of earwigs.

One of the most impressive aspects of this highly genial book is a knowledge of rural history that enables [Pearson] to extemporise on subjects as diverse as the Bluefaced Leicester (it's a sheep) and why Roman guardhouses has north- and south- facing ex \* FHM \* It would have been easy for Pearson to have got hold of these people by their prize-

winning parts and pulled mercilessly. But being a Northerner himself, he understands and reverts them and takes the trouble to set these shows and their bizarre sideshows in a revealing historical context. He has fun doing it and it shows... In his sharp observation of British habit, Pearson has been compared with Bryson; in his capturing of the overheard, he has been linked with Bennett. In fact, Pearson is a new and original voice and all the more welcome for it. \* THE TIMES \* Just as much of a hoot [as THE FAR CORNER]. The title explains his remit, but can't do justice to his one-liners and digressions \* MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS \* Pearson is funnier than Bill Bryson . . . a prize onion of a tome that'll leave you streaming at the eyes with merriment \* INDEPENDENT \*About the AuthorHarry Pearson is a journalist and writer who contributes regularly to the GUARDIAN, WHEN SATURDAY COMES and a number of those men's magazines with women in bras on the cover. His first book, THE FAR CORNER, was runner up for the William Hill Sports Book of the Year.