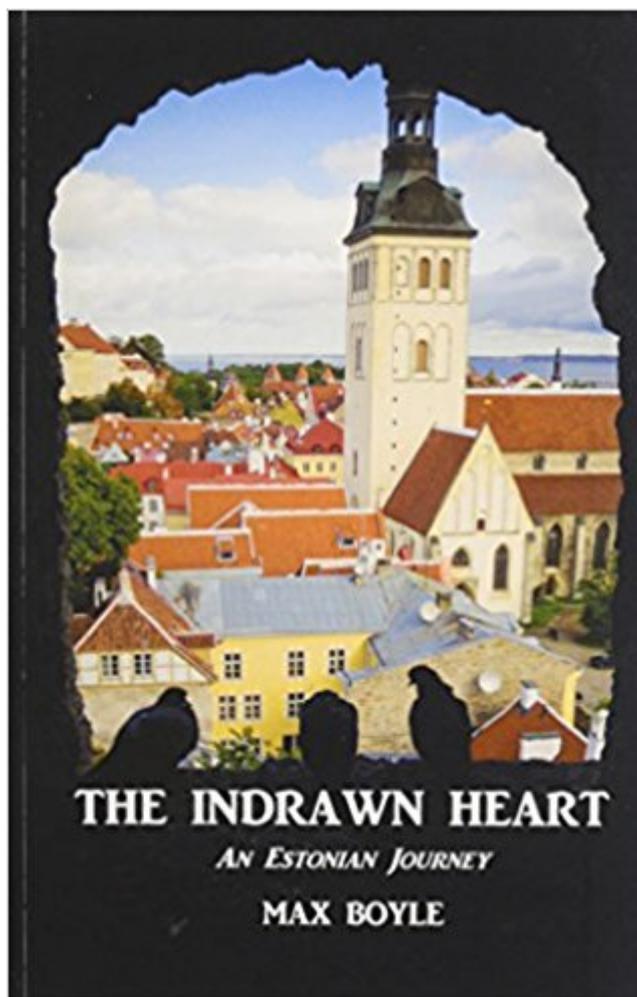


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# The Indrawn Heart: An Estonian Journey



## Synopsis

Is Estonia home to the most introspective nation in Europe? The stereotypes of Estonians might suggest so, depicting a reticent and uneffusive people for whom, according to their own proverb, speaking is silver, silence is golden. Early one summer, Max Boyle departs his native West Yorkshire to travel the country, of which little beyond the capital, Tallinn, and a Eurovision song contest win in 2001 is known in Britain. He takes with him a copy of *You Are So Little, Little* (Sa Oled Vãikene, Vãike), a poem by tragic nineteenth-century writer Juhan Liiv which speaks of Estonia and its indrawn heart. In an adventure which supplements a backpacking journey with an offbeat behavioural and literary enquiry, he explores his ancestral home, inviting Estonians to comment on Liiv's verse and their own view of themselves.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The book is definitely not for the millions "but there is a definite niche market for it. It may be interesting for those who have traveled in Estonia or are planning to visit this tiny country. The descriptions can be somewhat boring at times (a cyclist sped by, a newspaper fell down from the bus rack, a drunk was sleeping on the bench) but later I realized that these descriptions are a part of our exciting, if mundane, life; they do help create the ambience of the moment. The author periodically interviews people he meets and asks them to comment on a poem that provides an insight into the Estonian character, namely its introspective quality. These episodes are interesting in that Estonians are literally forced to speak to a stranger " somewhat of a feat for people who are extremely reserved towards those they've just met. Overall, I found the book

entertaining, and I did enjoy some of the British humor the author resorts to at appropriate times.

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