



## In a Land of Plenty

*Tim Pears*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# In a Land of Plenty

*Tim Pears*

## **In a Land of Plenty** Tim Pears

In 1952, Charles and Mary Freeman marry, take possession of a mansion high on a hill overlooking a small industrial town somewhere in the heart of England, and begin their family. This, Tim Pears' second novel, is the sweeping, rich, and astonishing tale of the first 30 years of their lives and the lives of their four children, Simon, James, Robert, and Alice.

Compellingly drawn and infinitely resonant, the stories of these four children, stories of both joy and tragedy, create a generous epic of the life of a family, and of a country.

## **In a Land of Plenty Details**

Date : Published March 15th 1999 by Picador (first published February 15th 1998)

ISBN : 9780312204129

Author : Tim Pears

Format : Paperback 544 pages

Genre : Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction, Literary Fiction

 [Download In a Land of Plenty ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online In a Land of Plenty ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online In a Land of Plenty Tim Pears**

---

## From Reader Review In a Land of Plenty for online ebook

### Elizabeth Torphy says

Lovely writer.

---

### Cecily says

Epic, brilliantly written. Wonderful despite (because of?) some nasty people/events. Cleverly pulls your sympathies between different characters at different times, creating a strange tension.

---

### Chelsea Ware says

James Freeman is my favorite character of all time. This book blows me away every time I read it.

---

### Diane Standish says

My 2nd five star book of the year. This was a story of a family. I was totally captivated by the style of writing and how well it was written. highly recommended

---

### Caitlin says

I read this book because I (very, very vaguely) remember the series, and as it's not available on DVD, I wanted to read the story (yup, I'm a philistine.)

This book is a family epic, following the Freeman family as they plod on through post-WWII Britain, during times of prosperity and loss.

Unfortunately, it plodded. Even with the massive catastrophe at the end, I wasn't really engaged with the characters. In fact, in the beginning sections I kept losing track of which child was which. I especially didn't really like the main character, and the more colourful ones (like Zoe and Simon) had brief appearances.

Sigh.

---

### Kirsty Darbyshire says

This was fabulous. A long stretching family saga kind of thing that I could have kept reading forever. The story is about rise and fall of Charles Freeman and his family, mostly centering on one of his sons James. Starts in the 1950s and works its way up to the late 90s or so. Takes in the changes of English society and

---

politics over the years. Very wide but it doesn't get out of hand. I loved it.

---

### **CuteBadger says**

This is a doorstop of a book running at nearly 700 pages in paperback and it needs to be as it's trying to show us British society since the 1950s through the story of a single (albeit complex) family. I started off really enjoying it, but as it went on I felt that I wanted more dialogue and less third-person narration. The way the book is narrated makes it feel like a history lesson and it made the characters seem less real to me somehow - I'd rather have learned about them through what they say than what the narrator is telling me. That aside, the book is a great achievement and has some very moving passages.

---

### **Abi says**

One of my favourite ever books. A wonderful family saga with lots of brilliant characters. I read it 4 years ago and was so sorry to finish it. I have read two of his other books, but did not enjoy them nearly as much.

---

### **Lara says**

By chance I found this book in a little charity shop, and what a gem I found! An amazing book that made me laugh, cry and exclaim out loud. I found the first chapter a little hard going to be honest, but once I got used to the writing style I was grabbed and absorbed by this families trials and tribulations. Not many books fill me with such emotion to make me cry, but this one did and I will certainly be looking for other books by this author.

---

### **syrin says**

Can an adaptation really surpass the original work, or is it just a question of what you get your hands on first? I've never been able to find an answer to the question "Book or TV/Film adaptation", but I had to give it a try with "In a Land of Plenty". The BBC mini-series is superb, and it still pains me that it was never released on DVD so I could watch it over and over again (and probably cry over and over again), so I had to give the book a try, to see if it was as good as the tv series. The final verdict isn't as good as I'd hoped. Though some things really surprised me in the book, like James learning how to see the world through a camera lenses, the slow discovery of the wonders of british food by Laura, and even the greater role Zoe played in the story, the pacing sometimes seemed off, as if Tim Pears somehow lost himself in his thoughts and started to write something else. The show, having only ten episodes, needed to condense the story (and even some characters) a bit more, and that helped to weed out all that extra stuff that has no place in the story, so in the end, the tv series won. But all in all, "In a Land of Plenty", the book, is still worth a read.

---

## John-henry Barac says

An astonishing meander through the lifetime of a man, his family and their place in the English town where they live. The story takes the reader through many social and political issues of the 20th century as these are the context which the characters inhabit. Marvellous characters. I loved it.

---

## Diane Barnes says

I know I'm not the only one whose unread books speak to them, and maybe to each other. I hear them murmuring quietly in the background, wondering who will be next, how long before I give them a chance to prove themselves, waiting patiently for their turn. For the most part, they are remarkably well-behaved. But that all changed when I plucked this one off the shelf. They began to scream at me! "No fair, he just got here 6 months ago! Some of us have been waiting for years! Plus it's 540 pages! 540! It'll take forever! ". Some of them even started sobbing loudly.

Well, it did take a while, 11 days actually. And for all those 11 days, this family saga had me so enthralled that it drowned out the noise of the unreads. From 1952-1993, forty years of life in a wealthy English family, living in a big house on a hill, watching four children grow from birth to middle age, with all that entails. Births, deaths, sibling rivalries, times of joy and horrible tragedies, the history of our times in the second half of the 20th century. I was there with them every step of the way, and enjoyed every minute. And did I mention it was written by Tim Pears? No wonder I shut out my other book's noise to concentrate on this one. I just hope they weren't too traumatized.

---

## Delphine says

As a family chronicle, *In a land of plenty* spans a period of forty years in an unnamed industrial town in England. The novel focuses on Charles Freeman, the patriarch of the Freeman-family. It is a complex family, separated by two different life threads: a life devoted to arts, emotion and passion (Mary, Charles' wife, who commits suicide - his son James, a devoted photographer - and his wife Laura, who seeks consolation in cooking) or - alternatively - a life dominated by profit, expansion of wealth, conservatism and Thatcherism (Charles Freeman, his son-in-law Harry).

I saw the BBC television series about fifteen years ago, and was struck by the beauty of the characters, the atmosphere and the photography. The novel didn't live up to my expectations, though. It lacks a cohesive narrative thread and the characters seem to be made of cardboard rather than flesh & blood.

Apparently, Pears teaches creative writing. Based on this novel, I would say that he views writing as a *product* rather than as a *process*. He singles out a couple of interesting metaphors (James' darkroom, Zoe's cinema, Mary's poetry - all places that serve their escapism) but the story lacks subtlety; overall, the characters don't seem real (they're stereotypes, or suffering from weird whims), the imagery is superficial and the story is at times simply boring. Despite all its details and carefully described events, the story doesn't seem to breathe.

I really had to struggle to finish the first 400 pages, but my patience has been rewarded. The next 200 pages were authentic, heartfelt and at times astonishing (thanks to the plot: a family drama, that is reminiscent of *We need to talk about Kevin* by Lionel Shriver). Final rating: two stars.

## Bethany says

Why? Why did I read all 544 pages of this?

There were times I enjoyed the story quite a bit but then the author would throw in some sexual detail which would really irk me because *I just don't like reading those things*. They distract me from the story AND detract from the story. (Yes, Mr. Pears, I understand this boy finds the girl attractive but I really don't want to hear about the state of his \*cough\* loins.)

For the first 300 pages this was my reading experience: "*Tralala! Oh, isn't this love!- Ew. I didn't want to know that. \*is bothered for the next 30 pages then starts getting into the story again\**" "*Laadidaaa... this is nice agai- Ew! Was that really necessary?*" REPEAT.

After those 300 pages it got better... perhaps only because I started expecting the worse.

I was never actually *bored* by the story; I find family sagas interesting. Though, I prefer sagas built around characters I care about. Overall, there were no characters I was rooting for or hoping would succeed. (There were a few I wished would just go and jump off a cliff, though.) I would like an aspect of a character here, an aspect there but I never fully liked anyone. Zoe came closest to being my favourite character, I think. I liked Natalie pretty well too. And the setting was interesting because the story opens in the 1950's and ends in the 90's. So seeing some of those transitions was interesting. The writing was rather good at parts, but overall, it just wasn't for me. (The sex and language content is a contributing factor, yes... but also other things which I can't quite pinpoint...)

Honestly, I would have been a lot happier not reading this all the way through and just putting it down. I am not afraid to stop reading a book because of its content, I've done it before. But something kept me reading. Perhaps it was something in the story; as I said, there were parts I enjoyed. Or perhaps it was just an inner doggedness. If that was indeed the reason, I'm thinking that "inner doggedness" needs to be squelched.

---

## Jessica says

I love epic stories which span lifetimes and generations and Tim Pears' prose just sings in "In a Land of Plenty." I was so intimately involved with the characters as the decades unfolded that the final scenes were gutwrenching, both in their sorrow and in the knowledge that the story was coming to its conclusion. I also have a soft spot for this book, as it delves into historical English cookery, a passion of mine.

Pears captures the turbulence both within and without a single family, demonstrating how events and other individuals shape people in different ways, even when their experiences are shared.

---