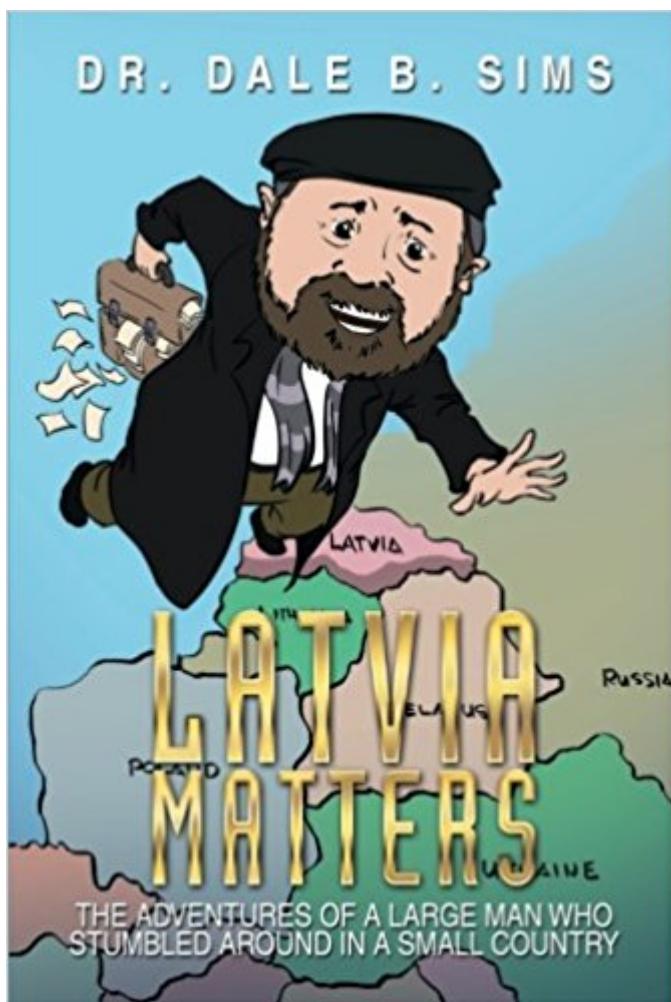


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Latvia Matters: The Adventures Of A Large Man Who Stumbled Around In A Small Country



Synopsis

Latvia Matters: The Adventures of a Large Man Who Stumbled Around in a Small Country When Dale Sims received a Fulbright Scholarship to teach in the small country of Latvia he left everything familiar and comfortable behind. His determination to do a good job of representing the United States of America presented a number of challenges, not the least of which were his own pre-conceived notions of other countries and cultures. Dr. Sims uses stories about his adventures to show the patience, concern, and good common sense that the Latvians expressed toward him. As you read about the Latvians you will be transported to their country and you will wish that you could visit their land with Dr. Sims as a guide.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you have ever had a teacher who made a lifelong difference in your child you might understand my love for Debbie Sims. She was my daughter's kindergarten teacher and I have never even heard of a kindergarten teacher who handled her class so wisely, innovatively and covered the basics so well. When I heard that her husband wrote a book, I had to buy it, if only to support the man she loved. Wow, Now I know why she loves him (and he her.) He went to a small nation on a Fulbright scholarship and rather than using it to improve his own credentials back home, he spent every day trying to be a good ambassador for the USA and Texas. His efforts did not always cross cultures well and the humor was always on himself, never making anyone else the butt of his jokes. He worked at this every day and the Latvians watched with jaws dropped until they figured out that he was real and then they entered into his world as he entered into theirs. I laughed so often and came to love this fine, fine man. He missed his wife terribly and she missed him. He may just be fine

enough to deserve her.

We often talk about experiencing other cultures and sometimes do this on vacation - but spending an extended period in another country living, working and building relationships with people impacts your life in a way you cannot quite image. Dr. Sims' book is an honest, heartfelt and humble look at his experience in Latvia. It is a great read!

The book is a very nice read and quite humorous. Dr. Sims makes you realize that we all leave some kind of an impression when we visit other countries. He went a long way to try and remove the "ugly American" image that Latvia and so many other countries have about those of us from the USA.

You get to follow an interesting Texan through roughly six months visiting an interesting country. One encounters unfamiliar culture, humorous misunderstandings, and boundless goodwill. Expect to finish the book not only knowing the characters well, but liking them. If you enjoyed the James Herriott series of books---the series starting with ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL---then LATVIA MATTERS might be right for you.

Delightful quick read. Worthwhile and enjoyable even if you have no special interest in Latvia. Never was such an admirable and lovable author. The adaptability, hard work, and perseverance in difficult circumstances shown by Dale Sims is America at its best and most characteristic.

This is a well written, thought provoking, humorous and thoroughly entertaining book. I happen to know the author and have always been amazed, encouraged and impressed with his ability to teach. This book only reinforces this feeling.

A very touching and insightful memoir. I am going to Latvia in two weeks and read the book as preparation for understanding the cultural differences that I may encounter. The author's engaging style and enthusiasm for his subject made it an enjoyable and informative read.

A perfectly delightful book written by a DBU colleague. I could not put it down until it was finished. Dale took me to laughter and tears.

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