

Confidences of an
uncircumcised Jew

Clear the Decks

JOSEPH PEARCE

After the death of his mother in 2022, Joseph Pearce, author of several highly acclaimed novels in Flanders, decides to take stock of his life. The writer, who grew up in a loving family and amidst the bustle of a family-run wholesale business in colonial goods, struggles with his sexual orientation and, as the son of a Jewish German, feels a deep connection to the history of the Jewish people. In the Flanders of the 1950s and 1960s, this is no easy task.

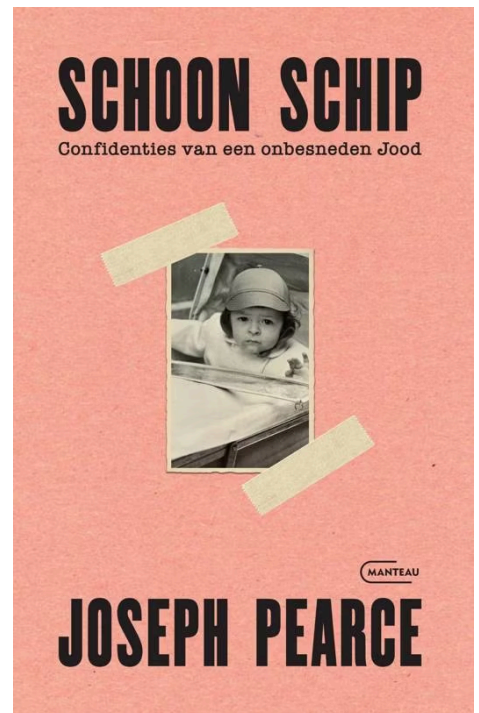
Pearce is a master chronicler. He writes with flair about what confuses people: progress, change, evolution.

DE STANDAARD

Confronted with a resurgence of antisemitism in a world rife with conflict, he advocates for nuance and mutual understanding. With a keen eye for seemingly insignificant details, as well as a firm grasp of historically significant narratives, he draws a self-portrait infused with Jewish self-mockery and an honest, critical, and layered view of 'la Flandre profonde'.

One word comes to mind to sum up so much beauty: a masterpiece. We are dealing with a pupil of W.G. Sebald.

LE SOIR



AUTHOR



Joseph Pearce (b. 1951) was fourteen when his father revealed that they were not of British but of Jewish origin. His family history became a source of inspiration for his first novel, 'Land of Promise' (1999). In France the translation was selected as one of the 'ten best books of the moment'. Many of his other novels have a similar autobiographical slant, while his later works tackle themes such as teaching and the literary world in a comic or satirical way. Photo © Koen Broos

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