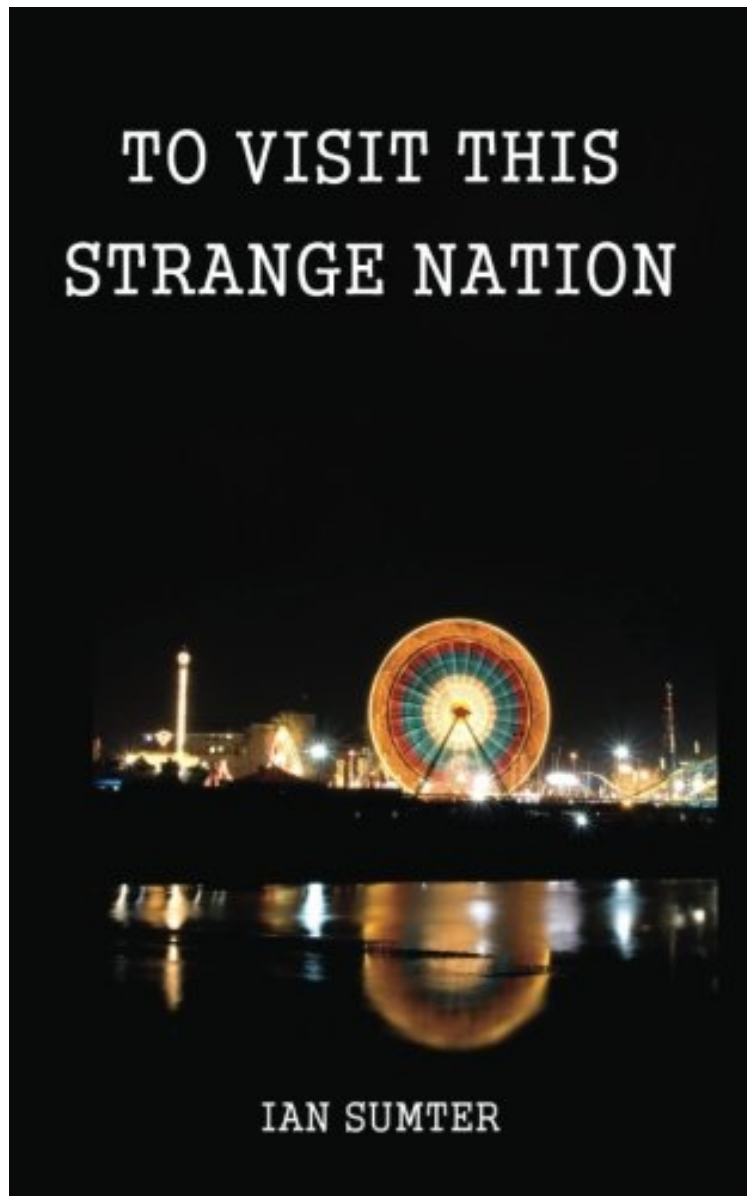


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To Visit This Strange Nation

Mr Ian G Sumter

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Mr Ian G Sumter : To Visit This Strange Nation before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised To Visit This Strange Nation:

"Students are compelled to travel; their education gives them little choice." So begins *To Visit This Strange Nation*, the unexpected journey of one English student who leaves the postage stamp world of his university and joins a travelling carnival in California. Working at fairs from San Diego to Sacramento, he enters the anarchic and sharp-witted world of the hustler. Written with energy, bravado and uncompromising honesty, his narrative portrays the lives of the men and women behind the carnival games; and reveals much of a sub-culture that is often regarded with suspicion and distrust. But this is also a journey of self-discovery; for in the brash company of his fellow carnies, he learns much about the world and his own place within it that university could never have taught him.

About the Author Ian Sumter is a writer, traveler, poet, sportsman, investor, journalist and teacher. He studied English literature at Oxford University, but since then his life has not followed any conventional career path. He has worked on traveling carnivals in California, and been a presenter on the Voice of Russia radio station in Moscow. He has managed the financial affairs of a Hong Kong private equity millionaire, and done conservation projects in the Lake District of Argentina. He has taught business English to senior directors of the largest companies in Russia, and provided educational advice to international students coming to the UK, Europe and USA. Ian has traveled widely in Europe, and also spent a year traveling around Latin America. He speaks good Russian, and knows Spanish, French and German. While in London, he rowed for 5 years with several senior sports teams - including at Henley, the Head of the River Race, and also in Berlin. He enjoys cricket, golf and cycling - as has taken part in the amateur Tour of Flanders, and is a member of the Club des Cingles of Mt Ventoux. He also rides motorcycles, and is a keen photographer. Ian has an eclectic taste in music - including Richard Wagner, Vladimir Visotskiy, Machina Vremeni, Yanka Dyagileva, Carlos Vives and The Grateful Dead. Ian is not particularly religious, but has a particular affection for Buddhism, and is curious about the Russian Orthodox Church.