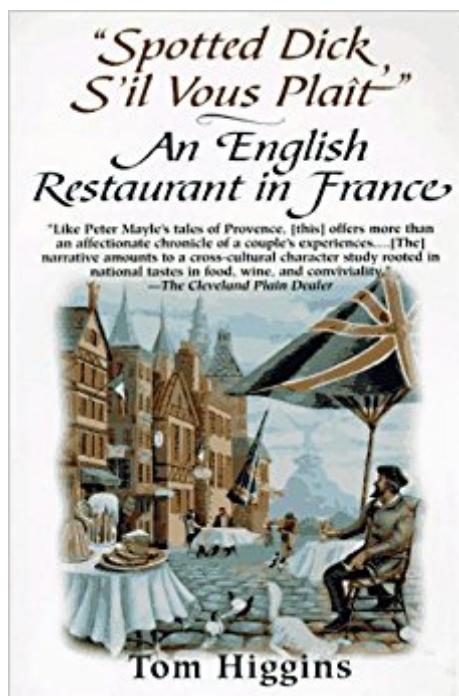


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# Spotted Dick S'il Vous Plait: An English Restaurant In France



## Synopsis

"I never would have believed that anything could make me want to go eat English food in Lyon, but Higgins's delightful book has done so."--Mimi Sheraton When Tom Higgins, a translator, and his wife, Sue, a physician, decided to set up an English restaurant in Lyon, France (the country's capital of fine dining), they had no idea what they were getting into. In this delightful memoir of their first eight years in business, Higgins recounts all--from the amused disbelief of their neighbors who regard English food as a joke, to the frustrating impenetrability of the French licensing bureaucracy, from the positive delight in choosing wines and creating menus, to, ultimately, the extraordinary feeling of running a good restaurant that pleases the most fussy diners in the world. Included in this charming tale are twelve typically English recipes that anyone can make!"After Peter Mayle comes Tom Higgins in Lyon. . . . Delightful reading."--BBC Good Food"Tom Higgins provides a wonderful insight into the French people and their way of life. . . . He is a natural raconteur."--En Route

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The idea of a restaurant specializing in English food was a joke to the people of Lyons, gastronomic center of France. Typified by overcooked meats and vegetables, soggy puddings and revolting jellies, English food was not dignified as a cuisine at all by the Lyonnais. But Higgins and his wife, Sue, loved the city and, having always wanted to run a restaurant, ignored all warnings and found a house in a low-rent section of town, where they lived on one floor and ran their restaurant on the other. Higgins, a translator, had done time as a waiter and sometime cook in English restaurants but had never run one himself. Sue's experience as a British physician was, at least, irrelevant. The

couple's travails in persuading bankers, bureaucrats, suppliers, workers and, above all, patrons that theirs was a serious business are often hilarious. Their droll reflections on local characters, markets, French eating habits and all the problems of running a restaurant anywhere, but particularly for foreigners in France, faintly echo Ludwig Bemelmans's classic memoirs of his hotel-keeping days. That the Higginses persuaded the French to demand English meat loaf, "spotted dick" (pudding with raisins) and other scorned English dishes is the miracle of their eight-year-old success. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Higgins, an Englishman, was working as a translator when he and his wife decided quite spontaneously to open a restaurant in Lyon, France. If running a restaurant is a challenge under any circumstances, it was an especially exciting feat for this couple, who had precious little previous experience between them. Discovering rodents during renovation and bureaucratic red tape were not enough to deter Higgins. His charming account charts the bumps and glories of the business over the past eight years in what may arguably be considered France's second city, though to many it ranks first when it comes to the culinary delights found there. Even if nothing terribly surprising ever occurs, Higgins' tale is full of amusing anecdotes that often revolve around the presentation of English food to the French. A provocative idea, to be sure. The book includes a sampling of recipes. Alice Joyce --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

As of 2013, the Mr. Higgins restaurant in Lyon France upon which these adventures and anecdotes were based is no longer in existence, which is a shame but perhaps understandable. It was one of only two restaurants (the other a bakery in Paris) in all of France to attempt to serve British-style food to a nation with its own glorious food traditions and with general disdain for the quality of British food in general. However, the restaurant remained open and popular in Lyon for about 25-years, and that certainly represents a major accomplishment for its owner Tom Higgins, who also wrote this delightful book of his experiences when contemplating and starting the restaurant 30 years ago. Hint to film-makers, it would make a great premise for a feature film, don't you think?

I love the book. It's like you're actually there in that little restaurant, helping Mr. Higgins make some of his pies. I just thought it will be like one of those "French or Foe book" with a lot of generalizations, but this book is amazingly light, and very informative--talking about the restaurant business,describing the beautiful scenery, it even contains some of his recipes! It's like a journal,

but it's not--anyone can understand what he's talking about. Great narrative and refreshing characters. Higgins has a great sense of humor.

as a gift to Tommy, Really nice sharp product. delivery on time receive it next day . professional service. will buy next time .

Spotted Dick S'il Vous Plait: An English Restaurant in France Tom Higgins has done a good job in describing his adventures in setting up a British restaurant in the heart of France's sacred town of gastronomy: Lyon. I have a love affair with all things British and most things French, so this was a nice, uncomplicated book that fit the bill. It's good reading and there is a fair amount of humor in it as well. I recommend the book for those interested in this subject. You also get twelve typically English recipes that you can make at home.

I found this book an absolute bore. What could have been completely captivating and interesting actually became completely predictable turning into stale blatherings on. If you read this book to get a "sense" of an Englishman in French culture, you won't find it here or in Mr. Higgins' restaurant. As for "amazingly light"...this book is amazingly light in content and interest. One could read the first and the last chapters and feel as though one had read the entire book. That might save time and therefore, be an amazingly quick read.

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