



Sixty Degrees North: Around the World in Search of Home

Malachy Tallack

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Sixty Degrees North: Around the World in Search of Home

Malachy Tallack

Sixty Degrees North: Around the World in Search of Home Malachy Tallack

The sixtieth parallel marks a borderland between the northern and southern worlds. Wrapping itself around the lower reaches of Finland, Sweden, and Norway, it crosses the tip of Greenland and the southern coast of Alaska, and slices the great expanses of Russia and Canada in half. The parallel also passes through Shetland, where Malachy Tallack has spent most of his life.

In *Sixty Degrees North*, Tallack travels westward, exploring the landscapes of the parallel and the ways that people have interacted with those landscapes, highlighting themes of wildness and community, isolation and engagement, exile and memory.

An intimate journey of the heart and mind, *Sixty Degrees North* begins with the author's loss of his father and his own troubled relationship with Shetland, and concludes with an embrace of the place he calls home.

Sixty Degrees North: Around the World in Search of Home Details

Date : Published July 12th 2016 by Pegasus Books (first published July 1st 2015)

ISBN : 9781681771465

Author : Malachy Tallack

Format : Hardcover 352 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Travel, Autobiography, Memoir, Biography Memoir

 [Download *Sixty Degrees North: Around the World in Search of Home ...pdf*](#)

 [Read Online *Sixty Degrees North: Around the World in Search of Ho ...pdf*](#)

Download and Read Free Online *Sixty Degrees North: Around the World in Search of Home* Malachy Tallack

From Reader Review Sixty Degrees North: Around the World in Search of Home for online ebook

Amanda Zucoloto says

2.5 stars. Interesting premise, very slow narrative. I liked how it explored the identity of living (very) up North, how it is a lifestyle you must embrace and cherish. There were a few brief accounts on that and well, very very detailed descriptions of fishing in Alaska and having a sauna in Finland - in case you're into that.

Niki says

This book reads as a travel book, a history book and a personal memoir, all rolled into one. A truly beautiful, if poignant journey. One of my favourite highlights (and there were many): "We look back, I think, towards times when we were not looking back. We are nostalgic for the absence of nostalgia. We long for those moments when we were not longing for what we could not have. We are restless to find rest."

Eibi82 says

Reseña completa: <https://ajustedeletras.wordpress.com/...>

Harry W. Paige afirmaba que <>. Esto no significa que podamos encontrar el hogar en cualquier parte, sino que la relación entre las personas y los lugares es emocional ...Es un proceso de arraigo en el que tiene que involucrarse el corazón

En 60 Grados Norte, su autor comienza el viaje, por un lado, como forma de dar respuesta a la pérdida de su padre; por otro como búsqueda vital en un intento de encontrar ese lugar al que llamar hogar. Además de ese hilo conductor que es duelo, el autor nos cuenta muchísimas curiosidades sobre los diferentes lugares que visita, el entorno y el respeto a la naturaleza son una constante en este viaje. Una de esas lecturas especiales y enriquecedoras que voy a tardar en olvidar.

Jenny (Reading Envy) says

You could probably hand me a phonebook from a cold weather island location and I would devour it. In this book the author writes about several places along the "sixty degrees north" parallel, with the unique fact that he comes from one of them. So he is writing about home and family (with the recent loss of his father) alongside the remote and unforgiving landscapes.

One of the cities he visits (Turku, Finland) is where one of my uncles is from. And I had yet to read anything set in the Shetland Islands, and they are now inching toward the top of the list of places I really want to see.

Thanks to the publisher for providing a review copy through Edelweiss.

Penny says

"Home is not a place only but a condition of the heart"

After reading the first few pages of this book I could clearly see why Tallack would choose to write about home and the meaning of home and place.

Although he emphasises he was surrounded by love, his early years couldn't fail to affect him deeply. His parents separated and lived at different ends of the country. And then as a teenager he loses his dad in tragic circumstances - Tallack spends the day fishing and waits for his dad to pick him up. He never arrives - killed in a car accident. I doubt this book would ever have been written if this tragedy hadn't happened.

I really love the current popular genre of travel, personal memoir and history writing, and this is really superb. Thank goodness it doesn't have the often misguided attempts at humour and comedy writing that can mar other books. In fact this is a serious book, very introspective and shot through with a sadness and restlessness that can often feel sobering.

Maybe it's because I have a son a similar age to Tallack, but my mothering instincts often came to the fore. I worried about him as a mother worries. He can seem a little like a lost soul at times.

I really loved reading about his travels along the sixtieth parallel, often going way off any usual tourist trail. He's brave, determined, talented and a beautiful, thoughtful writer. Recommended.

Bettie? says

BOTW

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b061q92d>

Description: Marking a borderland between 'near' and 'far north', the sixtieth parallel wraps itself around the lower reaches of Finland, Sweden and Norway; it crosses the tip of Greenland and of South Central Alaska; it cuts the great spaces of Russia and Canada in half. The parallel also passes through Shetland, at the very top of the British Isles.

Writer Malachy Tallack travelled to some of the places that share this latitude, beginning in Shetland, where he has spent most of his life. Wrestling with notions of home and belonging, he hoped that the journey would help him come to terms with his father's untimely death. Focusing on the landscapes and natural environments of the parallel, and the way that people have interacted with those landscapes, Tallack explores themes of wildness and community, of isolation and engagement, of exile and memory.

Reader: Sandy Grierson

Writer: Malachy Tallack

Abridger: Laurence Wareing

Producer: Kirsteen Cameron.

Paul says

When living and studying London Tallack's father was sadly killed in a car accident. At a total loss he feels the pull of the Northern world once again. Once there he has trouble finding peace, feeling hollowed out by grief. Shetland is on the sixtieth latitude, just short of the Arctic circle, and it crosses Greenland, Canada, Alaska, Siberia and Russia and Northern Europe. Whilst standing by a window looking out over the Atlantic begun to wonder what the other place were like that touched this line as it circled the earth.

He takes time to root himself in the place that is Shetland, travelling to places that are significant to him, marvelling at the Mousa Broch, an Iron age structure still standing, before beginning his odyssey travelling west around the world. But to get to the next country, Greenland, involves a fairly horrendous journey via Denmark and the Netherlands, and flying back over Shetland once again.

Greenland is vast, truly vast, and much colder than Shetland as it isn't warmed by the Gulf Stream. It is wild too, something that he discovers when he meets the locals, who feel threatened by outsiders who wish to dictate how they should now live. The natives treasure their land, and until outside influences intruded, managed to live with some sort of balance. These external influences mean that the younger generation are now starting to lose some of their instincts for living in the harsh environment. Next is Canada, a country where 40% of its land is above the 60th parallel. It is a place of danger, but of refuge too; a place where people can truly escape the trials and tribulations of modern life. More worryingly for Tallack are bears. Lots of them. And as he is intending on camping at one point, he is getting really worried. Guided by the locals he discovers more than he was expecting about this place.

Alaska beckons. He fishes in a pristine river, with a guy he met in Copenhagen when he was an exchange student there. Spending a lot of his time driving around he comes to know the state and its astonishing scenery. Next is Siberia and Russia, that enormous landmass that reaches from the edge of Alaska to the European landmass and home to only 40 million people. It is a place that holds the ghosts of millions though having been the place of no return that Russians were banished too by regime after regime. The contrast between there and St Petersburg is startling. Built by Peter the Great, its access to the Baltic meant that it was a gateway to the west and is radically different to most other Russian cities. Tallack moves around the city on foot and on the metro discovering how the city lives and breathes.

Finally he crosses the border into Europe, and into Finland, Aland then Norway and Sweden. Finland is pretty unique, it has an utterly different language to its immediate neighbours, and has only been a separate country since the twentieth century. Partaking in a sauna was high on his agenda, not easy with his British reserve though. Aland is different again. It is owned by Finland, feels like Sweden but they themselves say how they are run. The final two countries are almost rushed though as the desire to return home gets more intense.

At times it feels like a regular travel book; author meets and greets the locals; sees the sights; collects some photos and makes you feel a little bit jealous that you are not there too. Usual travelogue fare, but with this book there is a lot more depth too. When Tallack is writing on the loss of his father and the emotional turmoil that this had on his life, there is a rawness and intimacy that you rarely come across in travel books. As he travels away from Shetland he is exploring his own feelings as much as the places he sees. There are few flaws, it is occasionally a little heavy on the history and sometimes the prose can seem a little wooden. Then every now and again you come across a short passage that makes you pause. Then the writing soars and really shows his talent as an author. Well worth reading, provided you don't mind a little melancholy.

Kirsty says

Malachy Tallack's *Sixty Degrees North: Around the World in Search of Home* immediately appealed to me, and has been on my radar for such a long time. In it, the author charts his own journey as close as he can get to the sixty degree line - or sixtieth parallel - beginning his journey in his home on Shetland, a place which the line also passes through. This sixtieth parallel 'marks a borderland between the northern and southern worlds. Wrapping itself around the lower reaches of Finland, Sweden and Norway, it crosses the tip of Greenland and the southern coast of Alaska, and slices the great expanses of Russia and Canada in half.'

Robert Macfarlane calls this 'a brave book... and a beautiful book'. *The Scotsman* believes it to be 'so original, and so compelling'. *Kirkus Reviews* writes: 'A memoir remarkable for its intimacy, wisdom, and radiant prose... an enthralling meditation on place.' For me, the idea is quite an original one. I have read rather a lot of travelogues and travel memoirs, but no author whom I have come across to date has approached their journey in quite the way that Tallack has.

In *Sixty Degrees North*, 'Tallack travels westwards, exploring the differing landscapes to be found on the parallel, and the ways that different people have interacted with these landscapes, highlighting themes of wildness and community, isolation and engagement, exile and memory.' On beginning his journey, Tallack ruminates thus: 'Shetland lies at sixty degrees north of the equator, and the world map on our kitchen wall had taught me that, if I could see far enough, I could look out from that window across the North Sea to Norway, and to Sweden, then over the Baltic to Finland, to St Petersburg, then Siberia, Alaska, Canada and Greenland. If I could see far enough, my eyes would eventually bring me back, across the Atlantic Ocean, to where I was standing.'

Of his decision to travel around the sixty degree line, Tallack writes: 'It was curiosity, first of all. I wanted to explore the parallel, and to see those places to which my own place was tied. I wanted to learn about where I was and what it meant to be there. But finally, and perhaps most potently, it was homesickness that made me go. It was a desire to return to somewhere I belonged. My relationship with Shetland had always been fraught and undermined by my own past, and somehow I imagined that by going - by following the parallel around the world - that could change.' Woven throughout his travels, and the conversations which he has with those who inhabit the sixtieth parallel, is a dialogue about what home means, and how one can define it.

Tallack's writing throughout is rich and informative, and this is particularly so with regard to the descriptions which he weaves in to his narrative. He has such an understanding of, and an appreciation for, the natural world around him, and this comes through strongly in *Sixty Degrees North*. When beginning his journey in Shetland, he writes: 'Soon, the lavish green that had fringed the shore gave way to this heather and dark, peaty ground. The land flattened into a plateau of purple and olive, trenched and terraced where the turf had been cut. White tufts of bog cotton lay strewn about the hill. Shallow pools of black water crowded below the banks of peat and in the narrow channels that lolled between. I hopped from island to island of solid ground, trying to keep my coat dry...'

Tallack also has an awareness of the history of each place which he visits, and the importance and impact which it still has. 'Shetland,' for instance, 'like other remote parts of Scotland, is scarred by the remnants of the past, by history made solid in the landscape. Rocks, reordered and rearranged, carry shadows of the people that moved them. They are the islands' memory. From the ancient field dykes and boundary lines, burnt mounds and forts, to the crumbling craft houses, abandoned by the thousands who emigrated at the end of the nineteenth century, the land is witness to every change, but it is loss that it remembers most clearly.' He realises not only the positive aspects of the places in which he finds himself, but also the negatives; he

does not sugarcoat anything.

There is such a purpose to Tallack's travelogue, and he recognises just how unusual his choice of journey may seem to a lot of people. He writes: 'The journey north - in history, in literature, in the imagination - is a journey away from the centre of civilisation and culture, towards the unknown and the other.' Indeed, suggests Tallack, the north is often at odds with the south: 'The north is all that it contains. It is a place capable of change and diversity, a place immeasurable. It holds the preconceived, yes, but also the unimagined and the unimaginable.'

I have been lucky enough to travel to the majority of the countries which Tallack's journey covers, and it was fascinating to compare his experiences of each place with my own. I very much enjoyed Tallack's reflective writing style, which is layered with the details of geographical and personal history. He is insightful and fair as an author, and *Sixty Degrees North* is measured and immersive.

Laura says

From BBC Radio 4 - Book of the Week:

Marking a borderland between 'near' and 'far north', the sixtieth parallel wraps itself around the lower reaches of Finland, Sweden and Norway; it crosses the tip of Greenland and of South Central Alaska; it cuts the great spaces of Russia and Canada in half. The parallel also passes through Shetland, at the very top of the British Isles.

Richie Brown says

A mixture of a travelogue and an (approaching) mid-life memoir, Mallachy Tallack's journey around the 60th parallel is a great read. He intersperses great description of northern stop-offs (sometimes you want to read sentences over and over again they're so vivid) with expertly observed snippets of other people's lives.

But it's when he reflects on his own life, before and after the early death of his father, and how this trip is both an escape and reappreciation of his Shetland home (and whether home really ever is home) that 60 Degrees North really shines.

For lovers of travel and words in equal measures. A really solid debut.

John says

Decent writing, but I didn't get (missed) a unifying theme. Struck me more as impressions of discrete locations, with a bit of memoir thrown in.

Heather says

Somewhere in my head I had page numbers to go back to in order to pull quotes out for this review, but as I went further, I kept finding more, and ended up forgetting the multitude of numbers. *Sixty Degrees North*

sees Malachy Tallack stop in at various destinations on the sixtieth parallel, a prominent factoid that ties them to Shetland.

Russia, Canada, Greenland -you'd think there's only so many ways to describe North and cold, but you'd be surprised at how fluid and wonderful the writing is. No two places sound the same, each with their own character pushing through, despite some perhaps preconceived notions on certain areas.

People he meets can get a passing mention, but even the shortest moments spent with them are so well shown. The man with the bookshop marketing the parallel, the accidental labrador - they make you smile.

It's an all-rounded journey. He sets off as some sort of escape from the troubled relationship he has with Shetland, and ends with acceptance of what is ultimately his home. No matter where in the world he goes, he brings it back to Shetland. It's just a very nice and well-written book.

Gill says

I didn't realise from the description of this book, that so much of it would be about the impact on the author of the death of his father when he was a teenager, and his search to resolve his feelings about this, and to find somewhere to live that felt like home. I wasn't interested in these parts.

The parts of the book that were actually about the countries that Malachy Tallack visited, were interesting in general. I was most interested in the sections about places that I have never visited, such as Greenland and Åland. I didn't learn much that was new to me about the places that I have already visited, such as Alaska and Canada.

There were some nice nature descriptions, and Malachy Tallack had a pleasant writing style in this book.

Ashley Bergman Carlin says

Probably a 4.5.

This was a really lovely book and a joy to read. The prose is stunning and the premise engaging-- Tallack follows the 60th parallel westward, from his home in Shetland through Canada, Alaska, Siberia, St. Petersburg, and the Scandinavian countries back to home again. He's propelled by his grief and homesickness-- his father died when he was 16 and during the immediate months after, he dreams of following the 60th parallel. This dream slowly morphs into a certainty that if he were to do this, that the restlessness he felt at "home" would disappear and he'd be content, finally, to settle down in Shetland. Yet the journey does not accomplish this and ultimately he realizes that home isn't where you're born and raised, it's where you are most engaged.

Rebecca says

"Geography begins at the only point of which we can be certain. It begins inside. And from there, from inside, rises a single question: where am I?" Tallack muses. This is a beautifully introspective book about the search for home and identity amidst the changes of time and the trappings of place. The goal of traveling

across cold northern places makes it reminiscent of Joanna Kavenna's *The Ice Museum*. However, a more telling comparison is with George Mackay Brown, chronicler of the Orkney Islands; like Brown, Tallack is interested in islands, both literally and metaphorically, as places of both isolation and authentic community.

See my full review at Nudge.

Related reading: *H is for Hawk* by Helen Macdonald and *The Fish Ladder* by Katharine Norbury similarly blend the nature book/travelogue genre with autobiographical material.
