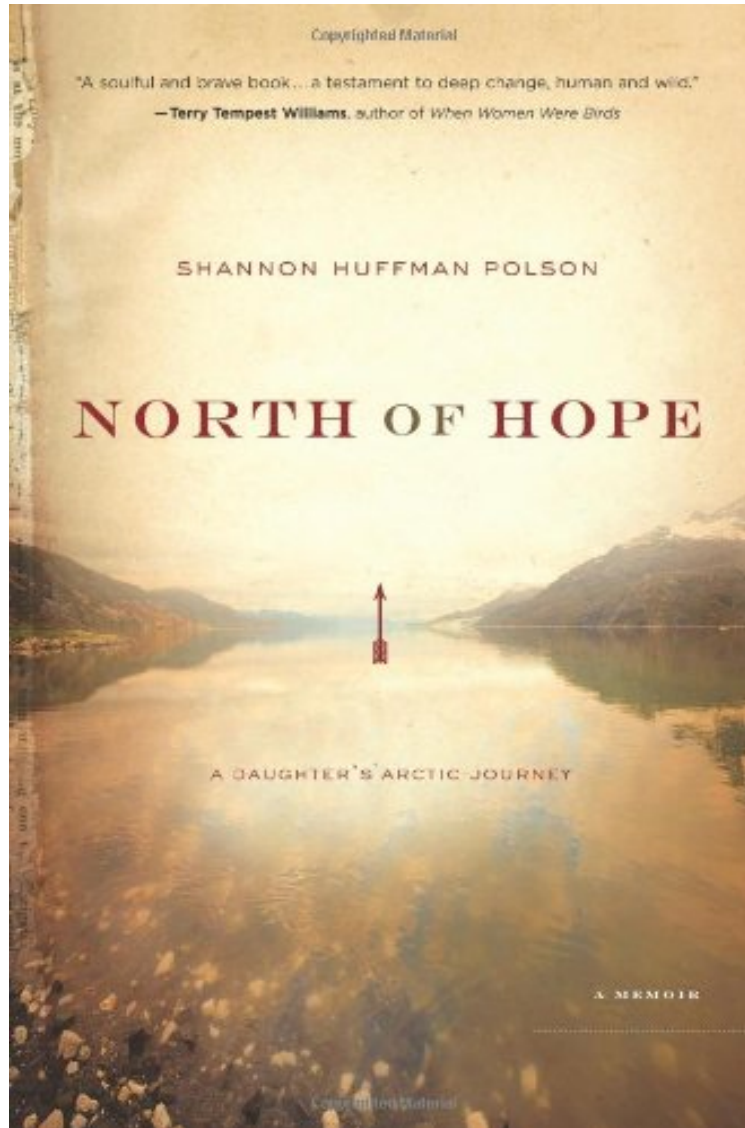


[Ebook free] North of Hope: A Daughter's Arctic Journey

North of Hope: A Daughter's Arctic Journey

Shannon Polson

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Shannon Polson : North of Hope: A Daughter's Arctic Journey before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised North of Hope: A Daughter's Arctic Journey:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. One of the best books I've read this year. By Cheryl Russell "North of Hope" is Shannon Huffman's Polson's journey through grief. A year after the brutal death of her father and stepmother from a bear mauling in the Arctic Circle, Polson, her brother Ned, and an acquaintance of Ned start the same river journey her father and stepmother were on when they were killed. It's a difficult journey--physically, spiritually, and

emotionally. Polson intersperses her chapters on about the journey with short chapters on music--another bond she shared with her father. Singing with the Seattle Symphony is another way she tries to ease her grief, to remain close to those she's lost, but this too is difficult. Journeying through grief is not easy, but it's a journey she must make. This isn't a book about a grizzly bear mauling or a self-help book on how to deal with grief. It is an eloquently written book about one woman's journey working her way through grief in a way that isn't centered on Polson. Instead, she brings in the beauty she finds in the midst of her struggles--the beauty of the music she sings and the beauty of the Arctic wilderness. I started this book while on vacation. My husband, who is not a reader, picked it up before I got back to it and started to read. I didn't see it again until he was done, a little over a week later. In the thirty years we've been married, that was a first, and I'm glad. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Hope Floats By Bob Osborne Shannon Huffman Polson's North of Hope is at least three books in one, and each of them is a great read. The first two are in the genre of nature and adventure travel writing. One paints a portrait of arctic Alaska, including off the path destinations such as the Waldo Arms "hotel" in Kaktovik, which is a coastal island town that serves as a northern gateway to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Based on my own visits to the Waldo Arms, I have described it as a cross between Rick's Cafe in Casablanca and the alien cantina in Star Wars. Polson's description brought back a lot of amusing, and largely pleasant, memories - including of the ancient velvet couch she describes. The second is outdoors adventure writing, describing a trip that Polson made down one of the Refuge's iconic rivers with all the internal drama and informative digressions of a John McPhee narrative, including his description of a river trip in *The Survival of the Bark Canoe*. The third internal book is just that - internal. It is by far the most eloquent, moving and important of the three. In it, Polson explores deeply personal experiences, including but certainly not limited to her exploration of the death of her father and stepmother on the same river. This is honest and searching writing, elegantly crafted. Polson is masterful at interweaving her personal exploration with its narrative context. There are other books peeking out from between the covers of this volume as well: the author's complex relationship with her brother and the structure provided by Mozart's Requiem Mass. Each is a nuanced and moving story in its own right. North of Hope is a must read for those who enjoy adventure travel, especially in arctic Alaska, but it is equally so for anyone who searches for meaning and renewal of hope in the shadow of tragedy. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Intimate and Inspiring By Carolyn Claussen I've never read a memoir before, and I'm glad I started with North of Hope. Polson does an incredible job of not only telling her story, but also becoming a tangible and real person with real hurt through her story. By taking the reader along with her on her journey to find an end to her grief, she maps her own personal struggle with loss and how she was able to find meaningful peace amid the storm of confusion left after the deaths of her father and stepmother. As she recounts her trip down the same river her father and stepmother traveled in their final days, Polson weaves in precious memories and even regrets she has from growing up. By recounting these memories and of the process of handling the loss in the year after their deaths, Polson brings to life her father and stepmother for the reader. Polson truly brings this part of her life into focus. I couldn't help but cry with her as she described some of the hardest parts of her journey through grief. Being allowed the incredibly personal and intimate look into another person's suffering through loss has been eye-opening and inspiring for me.

After her parents are killed in a rare grizzly attack, the author is forced into a wilderness of grief. Turning to loves she learned from her father, Polson explores the perilous terrain of grief through music, the natural world, and her faith. Her travels take her from the suburbs of Seattle to the concert hall where she sings Mozart's Requiem, and ultimately into the wilderness of Alaska's remote Arctic and of her heart. This deeply moving narrative is shot through with the human search for meaning in the face of tragedy. Polson's deep appreciation for the untamed and remote wilderness of the Alaskan Arctic moves her story effortlessly between adventure, natural history, and sacred pilgrimage, as much an internal journey as a literal one. Readers who appreciate music or adventure narratives and the natural world or who are looking for new ways to understand loss will find guidance, solace, and a companionable voice in this extraordinary debut.

"Shannon Huffman Polson has written a soulful and brave book about death, life, and the complexities surrounding both. There is nothing sentimental in these pages. North of Hope shows us how personal loss and loss of our planet come from the same place: Love. This is a testament to deep change, human and wild." - Terry Tempest Williams, author, *When Women Were Birds* "Daring, perceptive, and eloquent--Polson's writing is clear and forceful. Like all true pilgrimages, this one is challenging, and well worth taking." - Scott Russell Sanders, author, *Earth Works and A Conservationist Manifesto*