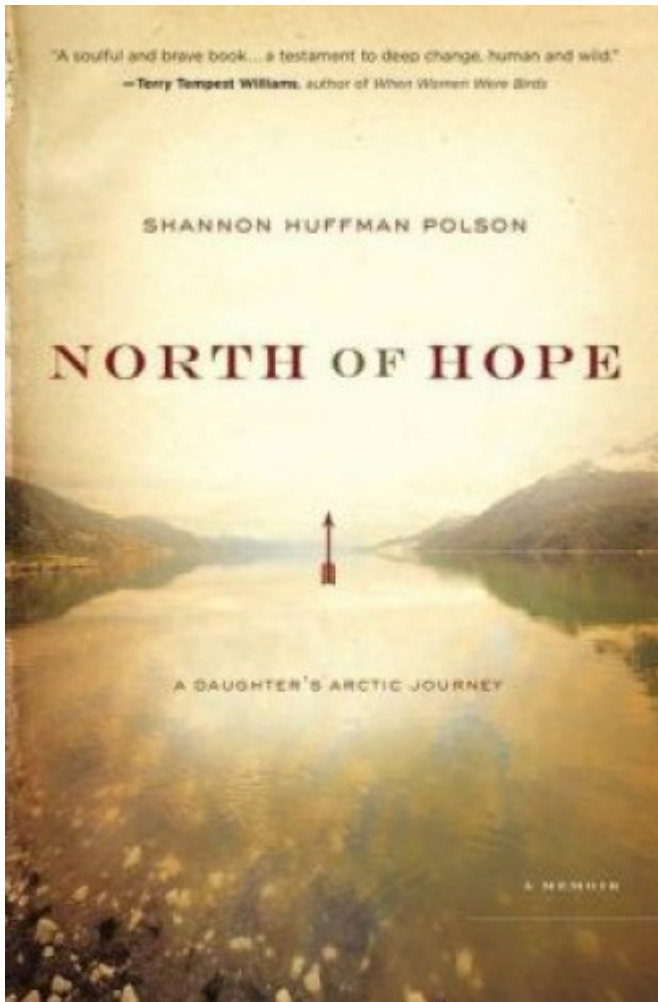


North of Hope, by Shannon Huffman Polson

Books in the [May 14, 2014](#) issue

In Review



North of Hope

By Shannon Huffman Polson
Zondervan

After Huffman Polson's father and stepmother were mauled and killed by a grizzly bear, she retraced their steps in the Arctic region. Completing their unfinished trek was not sufficient to heal her wounds. She sang Mozart's *Requiem* in the Seattle

Symphony Chorus, led by Itzhak Perlman. The *Requiem*, along with Kathleen Norris's book *Dakota*, gave her a structure to process her grief. She also discovered *Kaddish*, Leon Wieseltier's account of the yearlong Jewish mourning process, which he followed upon the death of his father. Additionally, Huffman Polson found saving grace in discovering the writings of Walter Brueggemann on lament, and she came to see her own writing as lament—not writing what she thought she ought to write, but writing the truth.