

Walking Home – A Journey in the Alaskan Wilderness

by Lynn Schooler.

Bloomsbury Publishing plc., 2011.

After a late marriage whose initial promise had turned sour, Lynn Schooler decided to find some peace and regain his equilibrium by journeying through parts of Alaska where he had lived and worked for forty years.

Walking Home describes this journey to and around Lituya Bay in the south of Alaska, and a magnificent travelogue it is. Schooler, a wilderness guide, fisherman and award-winning wildlife photographer brings all his skills to bear on his journey, and there are times when he needs all of them just to survive.

Schooler's descriptive powers make this a memorable read, and his description of the challenge of entering Lituya Bay, and later being stalked by a very persistent bear are intense and terrifying. The epilogue, which ties up a few of the loose ends of the book itself, echoes the poignancy and openness with which Lynn Schooler writes, and his combination of the historical with the present which is, at times, immensely powerful.

One ends Walking Home feeling as if one has been on a redemptive journey with the author, as well as being truly immersed in the grandeur and power of the Alaskan wilderness.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh