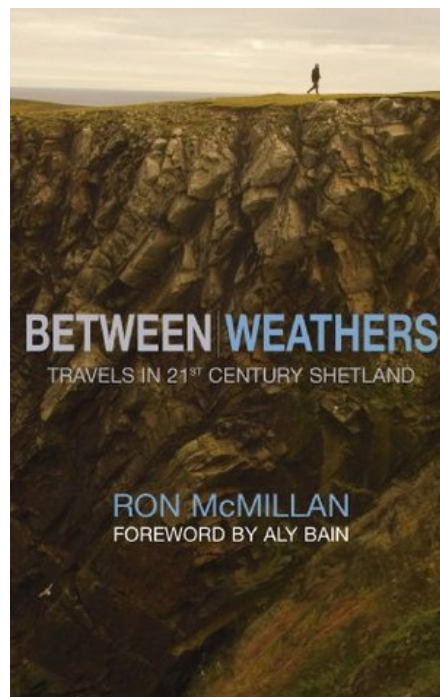




Between Weathers: Travels in 21st Century Shetland

Ron McMillan

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From Reader Review Between Weathers: Travels in 21st Century Shetland for online ebook

Danics says

A looong book in the way that is a lyrical narrative (the author, besides telling us his trip, goes through Shetland history and geology). However, it is a good way to learn lots of stuff about the islands.

Mark McTague says

Other than a few days in London, I have never been anywhere in the north Atlantic, least of all the isolated far northern islands of Shetland. And other than a sweater made from the wool of the sheep of these islands, I've no connection to them and little reason to be curious. That was before I read "Between Weathers", the kind of travel writing that simultaneously keeps you in your seat turning the page and leaves you itching to get out and see this world. This book hooked me from the beginning, as it put me in a cabin of a ferry boat while a force-8 gale raged outside. The author then goes on to deftly weave descriptions (and color photos) of the physical majesty as well as mortal dangers of the islands of Shetland with the history of the people who have struggled to live there. He brings us into the lives of sheepherders, fishermen, pilots, deep-sea divers, innkeepers, birders, and even brewers who make their homes on islands in the farthest reaches of the UK, most of which are further north than Oslo, Norway. By turns comic, touching, and sad, this book helps you see what makes people want to go to Shetland and live there, and also what can force them away. But more than just describe what he saw, the author manages to bring the reader, through a keen sense of the forces of history, a wit both charitable and at times caustic, and a photographer's eye for detail both of landscapes and of faces, to an understanding of this far away land and the people who love it. That is no mean feat. I thoroughly enjoyed this book, and I truly hope the writer goes somewhere else soon because I'd love to read about it.

Hazel White says

Read this after spending a month working in Shetland. It captures a sense of place, storytelling, history and humour in a delightful, gentle and engaging way.

Sally George says

Excellent! If you never wanted to visit the Shetland Islands, you certainly would after reading this. Warmth, humour and a "Local Hero" type book. Every one of the 23 reviews on Amazon has 5 stars. Next year a film is being made on one of the islands which should promote tourism and keep the islands from being abandoned.

Barbara says

Between weathers is a Shetland term that seems to refer to a fine day. McMillan spent a number of weeks exploring the geography, history, landscape and people of the Shetland Islands, a place that locals simply call Shetland. It is a remarkable place. There are off shore islands, such as Foula, which are easily visible from shore, and very difficult to reach. There are islands where local feuds undermine community unity.

McMillan also shares a great deal of local history. Before the oil boom, Shetland was a poor place. In past centuries, lairds ruled over their lives, and were often merciless. I have been to Shetland twice, and it is a place I plan to visit again. MacMillan shares just how much there is to see in Shetland. Much of what MacMillan accomplished is not for the faint hearted, as he describes climbing up to sea cliffs in order to experience the unparalleled views that Shetland provides.

As a lover of Shetland knitting, Shetland sheep and wool, and the whole history of Shetland fiber, this was one aspect of Shetland that I missed in his book. However, I do have a number of books on those topics. MacMillan's book is a must-read for anyone interested in Shetland, Scotland, and islands.

Mike Sumner says

If you have ever had the good fortune of visiting the Shetland Isles you will undoubtedly enjoy this book. If you have ever had an inkling of visiting these northern isles you also will enjoy this book. If you enjoy enquiring, lyrical travel writing then get a copy of this most enjoyable travelogue by Ron McMillan. My wife and I were enchanted with Shetland where we recently enjoyed a holiday. I purchased a copy of this enthralling book in the Shetland Tourist Office in Lerwick. An evocative read with McMillan visiting many of the locations that we enjoyed and far more that we didn't, like Fair Isle (a must for a future visit), Papa Stour and the island of Foula.

McMillan enjoys flights on the Loganair Islander, sitting up front in the co-pilot's seat, this stubby little aircraft able to fly in most of the weather that Shetland has to throw at it. If ever a phrase was made for Shetland: "It's a day atween waddirs"... Between weathers.

This wonderful account of his travels brims with insights into the islands' wildlife, archaeology and geology and most of all it casts a warm and engaging light on Shetlanders themselves.

If you read this book and you haven't been to Shetland - you will want to.
