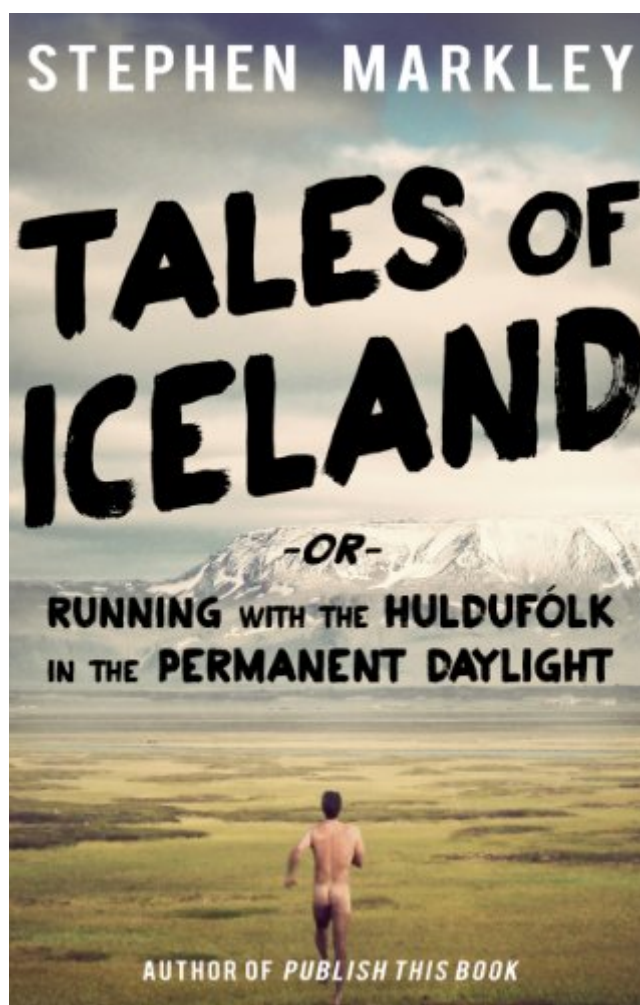


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Tales Of Iceland: Running With The Huldufólk In The Permanent Daylight



Synopsis

When American author Stephen Markley was a fresh-faced, impressionable university student in Ohio, he saw Quentin Tarantino describe a trip he'd taken to Iceland. "Supermodels working at McDonald's," said Tarantino of the Icelandic. Markley never forgot those words. Seven years later, Markley set out with two friends for Iceland, and adventure would ensue. The three young men found a country straddling Europe and North America, recovering from its 2008 economic crisis, struggling to regain its national identity, influenced by the entire globe yet trafficking in its singular Icelandic sagas and legends. With *Tales of Iceland*, Markley delivers the fastest, funniest memoir and travelogue of an American experience in Iceland. Beware: You will NOT learn how to say "Which way to the potato farm" in the Icelandic language. Nor will you learn how to locate the finest dining options in Reykjavik, or the best opera house. This is not that kind of travel book. Markley and his two irrepressible twenty-something American pals do not like opera, had no money to eat much besides eggs and skyr, and learned only how to say "Skjall" and "Takk" and "Skyr." The author of the growing cult classic *Publish This Book*, Markley dives headfirst into Icelandic history and culture while not ignoring all those weird stories found in the best travel writing: a road trip around the golden circle; partying in Reykjavik on National Day; drinking late into the night with gorgeous Icelandic women; hiking over pristine white glaciers featured in *Game of Thrones*; encountering a drunk, raging Kiefer Sutherland; crashing in the band *Of Monsters and Men*'s old apartment; getting hit on by a Wiccan in the famed Blue Lagoon; searching for signs of Icelandic "hidden people"; interviewing Jón Gnarr, the actor-comedian who accidentally became the funniest mayor in the world (by vowing not to form a coalition government with anyone who hadn't watched all five seasons of *The Wire*); and countless other travel tales of youthful irreverence. If you're about to pick up this book about Iceland, just know that it will be a little foul. Markley also brings his twisted sense of humor and combative social conscience to bear on why there are no prostitutes in Iceland, how fishing quotas planted the seeds of an economic doomsday, and why one should never invite Icelanders over for an after-party. *Tales of Iceland* is the indispensable travelogue and required reading for anyone wishing to visit this strange, beautiful, and remarkable country. As Markley reflects: "All I can say with full credibility is that I went to Iceland and kind of fell in love with the place." *Tales of Iceland* tells how it happened. A Note from the Publisher, GiveLiveExplore: Travel guides are static and stale. Savvy travelers in today's connected world are better served using free, curated websites like TripAdvisor and Lonely Planet, and personalized travel tips are better garnered by polling friends, meeting fellow travelers abroad, or talking to locals. While travel information has become a commodity, we believe good, honest tales

are in short supply. Tales of Iceland is our answer. It's the anti-guidebook--a fun, engaging story with useful cultural context to compliment your own travels. Our hope is not only that this travelogue becomes the book travelers read before or during a trip to Iceland, but that it inspires more to explore and live out his or her own Tales of Iceland.

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Customer Reviews

In "Tales of Iceland or Running with the Huldufólk in the Permanent Daylight" we have three supposedly adult men, all of whom have graduated college and have actual careers, more or less, and who decide to go vacation in Iceland. In reality, what we get is the tale of three frat bros who will all need cirrhosis treatment soon, and who whine in bitch that they can't get laid, even though several Icelandic (and other) women throughout the account explain to them exactly what they should be saying and doing. There's even whining about not being able to masturbate, which is

about the epitome of worthlessness. I did get a small smile or two but the book isn't nearly as funny as it thinks it is. Well, it might be funny if you are a bro and you think farting and commentary about bodily fluids and semi-fluids is humor. There is almost no Iceland in this book. The author does slip in a little bit of history and local color, but it's so minimal and stranded between bro tales that it might as well not even exist. Don't waste your money.

How has this gotten such good reviews?! I thought I'd read this in advance of my Iceland trip instead of getting a regular guidebook - I'm a huge fan of Paul Theroux, Bill Bryson, and the like and their travelogues. This reads like a college student's Facebook wall. It's clunky, overwritten, and non-linear. On the plus side, it'll take you maybe three hours to read, tops. Markley includes lots of inside jokes - but it's not funny when you have to explain them to your audience. It's just not a funny book. Also, it's very dirty.

Pubescent sexual references dilute the required middle school research report...but not enough to recommend to anyone over 17. Miss it.

Like several of the other reviewers here, I'm headed to Iceland soon and thought I'd read this book as another way of nurturing the excitement and anticipation of my trip. Big mistake. This book could just as easily be set in any other location. The author mentions the places they visit and things they see very briefly, instead devoting pages and pages to what he and his friends drank, the women they tried to sleep with, the "D-bag Icelandic guys" who interfered with those plans, etc. It's immature and boring at best; offensive at worst. Please do not waste your time and money reading this book. If you're into bathroom humor and sex jokes, just read Tucker Max and call it a day.

So, here's the thing. I am a fickle reader, I do not jest. I have a 'prize winning' book (given to me by the other half so I've pretended to be reading for the last 4 years....) that I cannot get past the first chapter. So as a result it would take a lot for me to actually write a review. Yet here I am. You will laugh, I found myself laughing out loud in public whilst reading this book. And you will learn stuff and the stuff is really interesting in a light and humorous way. Not only that, if I found it hard to put this gem of a book down then you must gather by now it is pretty great. Add to cart, buy the book... you will not be disappointed. You will just be disappointed there isn't a sequel.

Basically Markley's personal travel diary - with content you'd expect from a college-aged male. Fine

if you were a member of the group, but otherwise just his opinions on how easy Icelandic women are and where to drink in Iceland ... Masquerading as a travel book.

The author warns the reader up front that this is not your typical travel book and that it will be juvenile, crass, and lewd. It is all of those and pretty funny, too. I liked the way Markley balanced the humorous "frat boys on a lark" with the serious, political, historical, and environmental commentary. He would slip important information in amongst the stupidity. I had never heard of Markley before this and only got the book because I'm thinking of going to Iceland and I wanted a different take from the regular guidebooks (which I also bought.) The price is good and it's a quick, fun read which should inspire people to visit Iceland.

-it has swearing so don't let your kids read-its written by young horny men so there is a wee bit of drama, drinking & notes about boobs-but between all that its a great diary of what sounds like the exact road trip I hope to experience in Iceland....now I just have to find the person who wants to so it with me! My only hope is that some of the roadside attractions are not out-dated at this point.

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