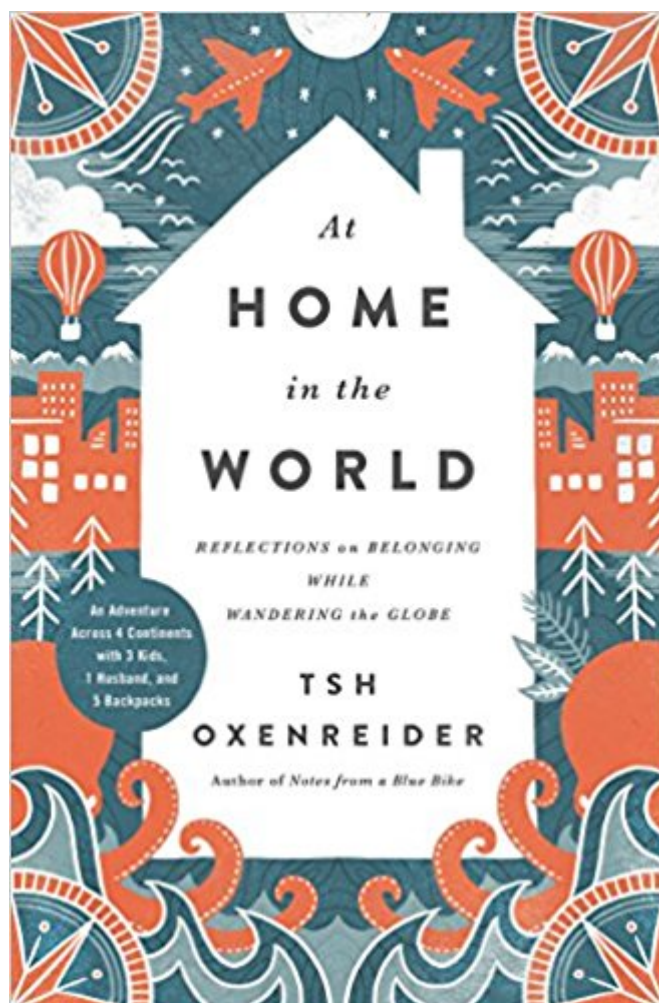


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At Home In The World: Reflections On Belonging While Wandering The Globe



Synopsis

As Tsh Oxenreider, author of *Notes From a Blue Bike*, chronicles her family's adventure around the world—seeing, smelling, and tasting the widely varying cultures along the way—she discovers what it truly means to be at home. The wide world is calling. Americans Tsh and Kyle met and married in Kosovo. They lived as expats for most of a decade. They've been back in the States now with three kids under ten for four years, and while home is nice, they are filled with wanderlust and long to answer the call. Why not? The kids are all old enough to carry their own backpacks but still young enough to be uprooted, so a trip—a nine-months-long trip—is planned. *At Home in the World* follows their journey from China to New Zealand, Ethiopia to England, and more. They traverse bumpy roads, stand in awe before a waterfall that feels like the edge of the earth, and chase each other through three-foot-wide passageways in Venice. And all the while Tsh grapples with the concept of home, as she learns what it means to be lost yet at home—in the world. "In this candid, funny, thought-provoking account, Tsh shows that it's possible to combine a love for adventure with a love for home." —Gretchen Rubin, New York Times bestselling author of *The Happiness Project* and *Better Than Before*

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Customer Reviews

"Oxenreider makes a convincing case that travel with children is not just possible, but rewarding for all involved. Even those who wouldn't consider such an endeavor will enjoy going along for the ride on the page, and might be encouraged to take on new travel adventures with their families."

-Booklist

What would you say if your spouse suggested selling the house, putting the furniture in storage, and taking your three kids under age ten on a nine-month trip around the world? Tsh Oxenreider said, "Thank you for bringing it up first." In this intimate, transporting memoir, Tsh shares the story of how her family spent a rather ordinary nine months in an extraordinary way: circumnavigating the earth to see, firsthand, the places they've always wanted to explore. She chronicles their global journey from China to Singapore to Australia, Uganda, France, Croatia, and beyond, as they fill their days with mouth-watering food, breathtaking sights, train schedules, world-schooling the kids, and the gradual awareness of all the world teaches about itself, its inhabitants, and the places we call home. From releasing paper lanterns in Thailand to experiencing the community of strangers in Zimbabwe, Tsh invites readers to join her on a trek around the globe without the cost of a ticket; to discover the people, places, and stories worth knowing about; to belong in the familiar and yet feel at home outside of it; and to find the balance between wanderlust and rootedness. "Travel has taught me the blessing of ordinariness, of rootedness and stability," she writes. "It can be found anywhere on the globe."

This is easily my favorite book from Tsh Oxenreider. For years I've identified with her simple living message, but the heart of that particular message isn't as compelling to me as the heart behind this book: finding a place of belonging, a home in the world, as both a homebody and an adventurer. This has been a central tension in my life for at least the last fifteen years as I have moved, traveled and adventured in North America with my family. Where do I belong? Where is home? How do I even define home? These are the questions I have wrestled with and tried to answer. Sometimes I find an answer for a season, and sometimes the answers I've found don't hold true for the long term. I love the travel stories in this book, to experience the world through Tsh's writing but I also especially appreciate the discussion of home and how we define home, and how we find home. And my list of must-see places in the world is fast growing. The more chapters of this book I read the more I fall in love with the world, both as a geographically diverse place and our home as humanity. I love the world and people more though reading this book. Tsh experiences make me want to travel and trust more and worry less. I want to continue to challenge myself to true new things and be open to people and experiences. I adore this book. renee.tougas.net

Tsh's memoir of her family's year traveling the world put me squarely in her shoes of being caught

between wanderlust and longing for home. I found myself being incredibly grateful for my stable life at home in Tennessee with my comfy bed and predictable seasons while simultaneously longing to see, smell, touch, taste, and hear absolutely everything she described. The list of places I want to travel to and explore increased tenfold while reading about the Oxenreider family's adventures! This book could easily find its place on the travel shelf or on the self-help shelf of a bookstore. Finding what home means to us is just as important as figuring out personality types or behavior motivators and this glimpse into how Tsh and her family defined home as they traveled helped me feel more at home with where I am in the world. Thanks for sharing your journey with us, Tsh!

I enjoyed this book for a variety of reasons. It's a great way to learn about other cultures almost firsthand without leaving your home. This author's style is so easy to read- well I did have to look up a few definitions - but her words just seemed like they flowed effortlessly. I learned to appreciate the special things each country possessed. Her family adventures were fun to read about. This book will make you appreciate home and travel! I loved the last part especially where she explains about wanderlust. This book deserves 5 stars for sure!

This is a fantastic travel memoir. Tsh's reflections on her family's world travels is engaging, entertaining and awakens the wanderlust in me. To see the world - the people, villages, food and dirt - and not just the major tourist attractions is what it truly means to live globally. I may never get the chance to take a similar trip myself, but this memoir has reminded me that wherever I do travel to I want to explore life in that place rather than check off boxes of things to do.

I've been reading Tsh's blog since the early days and have long loved following her adventures in motherhood, blogging, organizing, minimizing, and travel. This book isn't simply a travelogue or memoir of globetrotting; it's a wonderfully inspiring story of finding yourself, finding God, and finding peace with home (wherever and no matter where it may be). As a fellow sojourner who gets to pick up and move every few years as we serve the military, I found Tsh's story resonating with my own: living in the tension of wanderlust and longing for that elusive feeling of rooted, stable home and community. I identified with her humor while traveling with kids under very unpredictable and sometimes unfavorable circumstances. I loved the universal importance of good coffee and tea 'round the world that she weaved through the whole book. And my heart connected deeply with the idea that life can bring questions about what we think and feel toward God, and in our search for him he's always there...everywhere. Tsh's vulnerable offering will stay with me for a long time.

I love Tsh's writing style, so it's not surprising that I loved her report on an adventure of a lifetime around the globe. The book wasn't like a boring journal though (on day 23, we did this...) but it dealt much more with Tsh's heart and her desire to understand home. Her themes wove well throughout the book while being tied together by stories of her family's adventures. Her storytelling nature allowed the content to relate to even the least adventurous reader.

I'm almost done with this book and I find myself wishing it would never end. This is a pitch perfect read for those of us who love the idea of traveling the world but not so much the reality. Tsh does an incredible job of describing her trek in such vivid and raw detail that I truly feel like I'm right there with her. I will definitely be rereading this one. And heck, maybe we'll start planning an overseas adventure of our own!

I love traveling and I love sitting at home with a blanket and a movie. Tsh gets that. This book is perfect for people who like to wander and people who like to stay home and travel vicariously through others, and anyone in between. Tsh writes with passion and compassion, with understanding for other cultures, with practical advice and know-how, with the voice of a friend telling you about their exciting trip. Organized around the different places she visited with her family, this book takes you around the world -- making you want to travel and yet making you appreciate your own unique place you call home. Love it and will definitely be reading it again.

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