MEN OF THE BEHRING STRAITS

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It is the height of summer, but it is already cold under the Arctic circle. Over there is Tchoukotka, the end of the continent. Alaska is opposite, at arm's length, on the other side of the Behring strait. In Tchoukotka, men still live like in the books of Jack London or Herman Melville. Just like their ancestors, the Tchoukches and the Inuits risk their lives hunting walrus or whales in dinghy boats. It is a new country, that has remained preserved after so many years under Soviet rule. Yet, it is an old country, just like the bones of whales that lie in Inuit cemeteries. It is a rough country, with people that had to mix willingly or not, people with weather beaten faces. It is a country halfway between tradition and modernism, a country between sacred and profane, on the Arctic circle, between East and West.

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