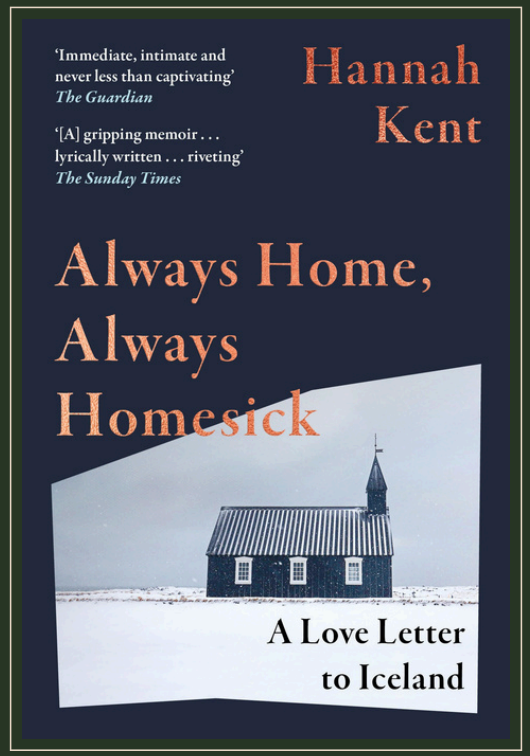
# WINNER

## *THE ILSE SCHWEPCKE PRIZE FOR WOMEN'S TRAVEL WRITING 2026*




*"Born and raised in Australia, Hannah Kent launched herself at the tender age of 17 across the world to a country as different as from her home could be, and from which she returned changed forever.* Always Home, Always Homesick: A Love Letter to Iceland *is in part a memoir of this first journey to Iceland, of falling under the spell of its landscapes, and of the people who took her into their homes and lives. It's also about her encounter with the story of Agnes Magnúsdóttir, the C19th woman at the heart of Kent's hugely successful novel* Burial Rites. *Cleaving to the friendships she made during repeated periods there, Kent has elaborated her ongoing Icelandic ventures into a work that layers her experiences with her inception as a writer. Her writing is crisp, very visual, often funny, and certainly transporting. A powerful and immensely enjoyable account of a deep, continuing engagement with people and place, that is also a celebration of reciprocity, of the to-and-fro of long and generous relationships. It is an absolute joy to read."*

**– The Jury: Fiammetta Rocco, Arabella von Friesen, Jacky Colliss Harvey**

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