

The Ice Curtain

Where America Ends

Photography by Poulomi Basu/VII Mentor
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At the very edge of American territory lies a remote settlement whose people live in the arc of Moscow's power. The island villagers of Little Diomedes are watched round the clock from Russia's sister island of Big Diomedes. They are less than three miles apart, and between the two islands runs the border and the international date line, separating Russia from America, yesterday from today.

But what Russian troops see is a far cry from the American dream. Climate change, border restrictions and loss of native language have eroded proud traditions. Shabby homes cluster up a hillside and rusting machinery lies along the shoreline. Drug abuse, domestic and sexual violence and teenage pregnancy are endemic.

"Diomedes is crying. We need help," appeals one village leader.

Before the Cold War, the villagers criss-crossed back and forth with family members living on both islands. In 1948, the border was suddenly shut down and relatives forcibly separated.

More than sixty years later, this remains one of the world's most closed frontiers. It is known as the Ice Curtain, and this is the story of the American people living in its shadow.























































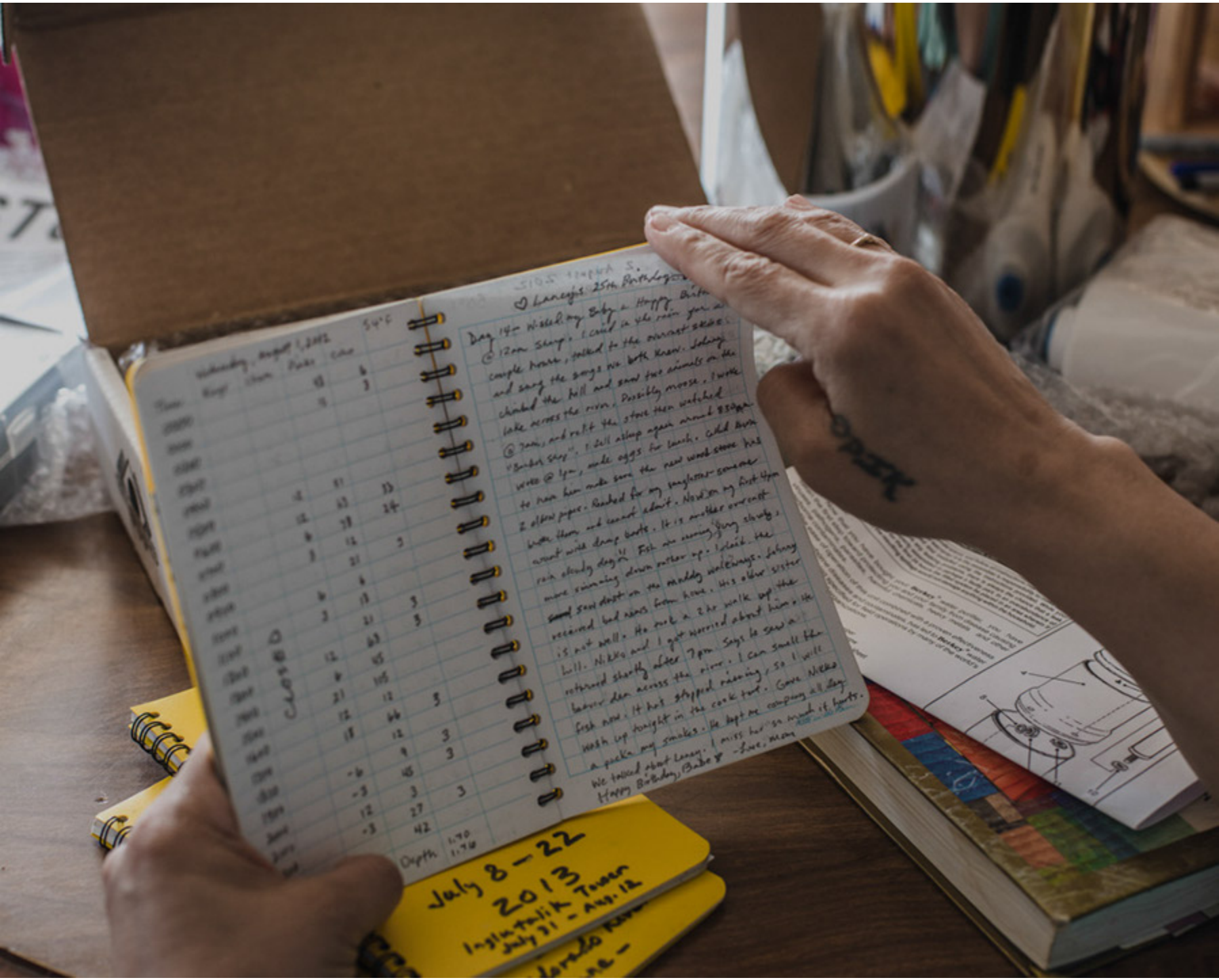












Wednesday, August 1, 2012 54°C

Time	Temp	Hum	Puffs	Cnts
0600			13	6
0700			9	3
0800				
0900				
1000				
1100				
1200				
1300				
1400				
1500				
1600				
1700				
1800				
1900				
2000				
2100				
2200				
2300				
0000				
0100				
0200				
0300				
0400				
0500				

Closed

Depth 1.70
1.70

25th Birthday
Day 14 - Wished my Baby a Happy Birthday
@ 12am Sleep. I called in the rain you and
couple hours, talked to the nearest skiers
and sang the songs we both knew. Solange
climbed the hill and saw two animals on the
lake across the river. Possibly moose. I went
@ 7am, and refit the stove then watched
"Bambi Sleep". I fell asleep again around 8:30am
with @ 1pm, made eggs for lunch. Called him
to hear him make sure the new wood stove was
to allow paper. Reached for my sunglasses - someone
broke them and cannot find them. Now on my first 14pm
went with damp boots. It is another overcast
rainy cloudy day!! For an evening, my shorts
were swimming down over my up. I said the
small seat down on the muddy walkways. Solange
received bad news from home. His older sister
is not well. He took a 2hr walk up the
hill. Nikko and I got worried about him. He
returned shortly after 7pm. Says he saw a
beaver den across the river. I can smell the
fish now. It has stopped raining. So I will
wash up tonight in the cook tent. Gave Nikko
a pack of smokes. He kept me company all day.
We talked about Leary. I miss her so much it hurts.
Happy Birthday, Babe - Love, Alan



July 8-22
2013
Inglutalik Tamen
July 31 - Aug. 12
Arado River
na -



















































