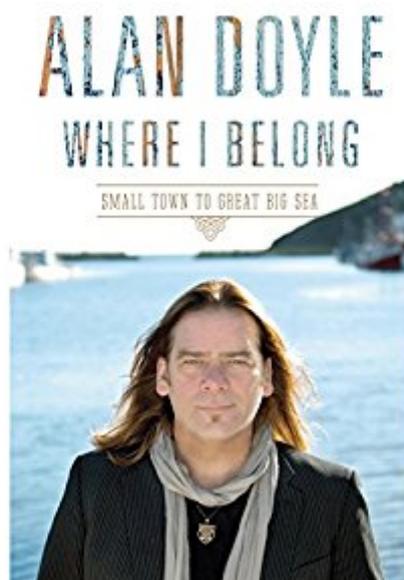


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# Where I Belong



## Synopsis

From the lead singer of the band Great Big Sea comes a lyrical and captivating musical memoir about growing up in the tiny fishing village of Petty Harbour, Newfoundland, and then taking to the world stage. Singer-songwriter and front man of the great Canadian band Great Big Sea, Alan Doyle is also a lyrical storyteller and a creative force. In *Where I Belong*, Alan paints a vivid, raucous, and heartwarming portrait of a curious young lad born into the small coastal fishing community of Petty Harbour, Newfoundland, and destined to become a renowned musician who carried the musical tradition of generations before him and brought his signature sound to the world. He tells of a childhood surrounded by larger-than-life characters who made an indelible impression on his music and work; of his first job on the wharf, cutting out cod tongues for fishermen; of growing up in a family of five in a two-bedroom house with a beef-bucket as a toilet, yet lacking nothing; of learning at his father's knee how to sing the story of a song and learning from his mother how to simply "be good"; and, finally, of how everything he ever learned as a kid prepared him for that pivotal moment when he became part of Great Big Sea and sailed away on what would be the greatest musical adventure of his life. Filled with the lore and traditions of the East Coast and told in a voice that is at once captivating and refreshingly candid, this is a narrative journey about small-town life, curiosity, and creative fulfillment and, finally, about leaving everything you know behind only to learn that no matter where you go, home will always be with you.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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## Customer Reviews

Alan Doyle is a born storyteller, regardless of the medium he's using. Loved by many as part of the

band Great Big Sea, a respected solo artist, actor ... there seems to be no creative endeavor he can't excel at. In 'Where I Belong', Doyle turns his natural born gift of the gab to his beloved tropical isle of Newfoundland, and specifically the tiny town of Petty Harbour. His stories of growing up in a special corner of Canada and how it has shaped him as an artist and a man are a delight to read. Can't wait for the next volume.

I've been a fan of Great Big Sea over the years and have seen them many times in concerts. Alan Doyle was one of the members in Great Big Sea. He seems like a nice guy and I was interested in reading his story. I figured it would be a good one and it was. Doyle tells of growing up in a small fishing village just outside of St. John's, NF. His family (dad, mom and four kids) didn't have much but they didn't realize that because they had what everyone else had (or didn't have what others didn't have) ... they didn't even have a bathroom for many years. Most of Petty Harbour is related to them somehow ... kinda cramps your style when you're looking for a girlfriend because most of the girls are either your cousin or Protestant. We hear what it's like working on the wharfs when the fisherman would come in and his job was to cut the tongues from the codfish and try to sell them for pocket money. Things improved when he got a job when he was 16 in St. John's in a museum as an interpreter. Plus he started picking up gigs in bands, which eventually led to him meeting Sean McCann and forming Great Big Sea. I liked the writing style ... I thought it was honest and humorous. I bet Doyle would be a fun guy to sit and have a beer with. The dialogue is great because it's written phonetically and I could hear Newfie accents when I read it. At times, there is a bit of swearing. Throughout the book there are pictures of when he was younger ... with his oversized glasses and peach fuzz moustache, he was stylin' (NOT!). Ha! His mom's bread sounds and looks amazing ... I haven't seen "double" bread since I left Nova Scotia. This was a fun yet interesting book about an east coast Canadian who started with not a lot financially and has done well for himself. I'd recommend this book. Blog review post:

<http://www.teenaintoronto.com/2014/10/book-where-i-belong-2014-alan-doyle.html>

what a wonderful book. alan doyle is known as a musician, but he spins a yarn with the best of them. a terrific read. i felt as if i lived in petty harbour, even though i've never been there. colorful, amusing, heartfelt...a small town life, told by a small town boy, who succeeded in life, but chose to stay a humble small town man. instead of leaving it all behind, he chose to embrace it! i love this book! :) the characters are what one might, or might not, expect from a small, isolated fishing village... and mr. doyle brings them to life on the page. highly entertaining...funny, sad, hopeful...i

will read this again and again... :)

I've been a huge fan of Great Big Sea for years and I have to say that Alan Doyle is the main reason. Love his voice, energy, positivity and amazing songwriting. This book was very interesting...I liked reading about his background, family and childhood experiences in Newfoundland, all told with sensitivity and humor. Looking forward to more books from him!

Alan's book is positively magical...finished it in one sitting and felt like I'd been transported to a Newfoundland kitchen party, visiting with a dear friend instead of the star of one of my favorite bands! My Newfie family lives all over the Rock, from St. John's to Tor's Cove to the Burin Peninsula, while my husband, son, and I live far away in San Antonio, Texas. Thank you, Alan, for giving me a mini-vacation to a place that is dear to my heart! Can't wait for the sequel! There will be a sequel, right?!

Alan Doyle, best known as the lead singer in Great Big Sea, takes us back to his childhood in Petty Harbour, Newfoundland in this memoir. While not a financially wealthy family, the Doyles of Petty Harbour were well known for their musical abilities and their wonderful kitchen parties. Alan was no exception to this, showing skill on the guitar and singing from an early age in church and with his uncle's band. The book details his life adventures up to his University years and the formation of Great Big Sea. This was an entertaining, heartfelt book that has me wanting to book my ticket to Newfoundland right now. Always a fan of GBS, I was interested to learn about Alan's background and more about what he was like growing up, as well as the roots of the band. Petty Harbour itself is an interesting place and I loved the descriptions of the Catholic side of town vs. the Protestant side of town. I don't want to give away any of the wonderful tales inside this book, but if you enjoy memoirs, are a GBS fan, or are interested in rural Newfoundland you won't regret a minute of reading this.

As I fan of GBS I read the reviews on this book with interest. They are all terrific so I bought the book from . The first quarter of his story growing up in Petty Harbour well lives up the reviews, poignant, funny, engrossing...I kept reading passages to my wife. But it ends there. It turns into a nice narrative of growing up in there and what shaped his life, but nothing you would buy a book for. I keep it on my shelf, but it did disappoint.

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