


+ SPEED READING +



JONATHAN TULLOCH
hears the call of the wild

My Life in Sea Creatures
(Chatto & Windus, £16.99; *Tablet* price £15.29) is a superb must-read. Written by non-binary author Sabrina Imbler, this collection of fascinating essays explores the wonders of rivers and oceans in the light of the writer's own life. Thus, in the essay "How to Draw a Sperm Whale", we find out about the whales as well as the author's relationship with a woman who enrolled as a student on the same art class. The book does not shy away from detailing how rivers and the marine environment have been trashed.

Sixty Harvests Left
(Bloomsbury, £25; *Tablet* price £22.50) is a highly urgent book. It takes its title from a statement by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization that if present agricultural practices continue then the world's soil can only be relied on to produce harvests

for another 60 years. Though terrifying to read, this timely and persuasive book written by Philip Lymbery, chief executive of Compassion in World Farming International, tells us what we need to do to heal the earth. This is a book that you can't ignore.

Malachy Tallack is a musician and singer-songwriter and ***Illuminated by Water*** (Doubleday, £16.99; *Tablet* price £15.29) is lyrical even when talking about the smell of slurry. Those who love fishing will be drawn to this book which describes many piscine adventures on lochs, burns and rivers. It is also something of a philosophical enquiry into why the simple, perhaps pedestrian act of casting a line and waiting can feel so mysterious and pregnant. Though born in England, Malachy Tallack was raised amongst the fast-running waters and tides of Shetland.