

# WAY TO THE WEST

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A CELEBRATION OF CORNWALL  
IN VERSE AND ART

ANDY & VALLY MILLER



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# CONTENTS

<i>Way to the West</i>	1	What Immortal Hand or Eye?	26
Seize the Tide	2	Wrecks	28
Way to the West	4	Armada	30
Cape Cornwall	6	Diaspora	32
Character	8	Autumn	34
Above Us the Waves	10	Old Way	36
Once More and Once Again	12	Deepening, Low	38
In this Tight Cleft	14	Evening	40
Packed Tight	16	Enough	42
Sightings	18	Who?	44
Sink Down	20	Little Lasts For Ever	46
Contagion	22	Extremity	48
Two Rocks	24	What Remains	50

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## Seize the Tide

No island is a man  
Entire of himself.

Always, an impossible crossing,  
A submerged link,  
Can be taken.

Must be taken.

Break out across the causeway.  
Seize the tide  
As it would seize you.

Every island enhances you.  
Every crossing not made diminishes.





## Way to the West

Dartmoor –  
Flecks on a scowling skyline,  
A frown across the land.  
Exmoor, then Bodmin, rushing,  
The predictable abandoned,  
The pastoral far behind.

Pinpoint populations along this rocky coast,  
Threaded on the contours of the sky.  
Cross the neck of the final peninsula,  
Severing connections, stepping out anew.

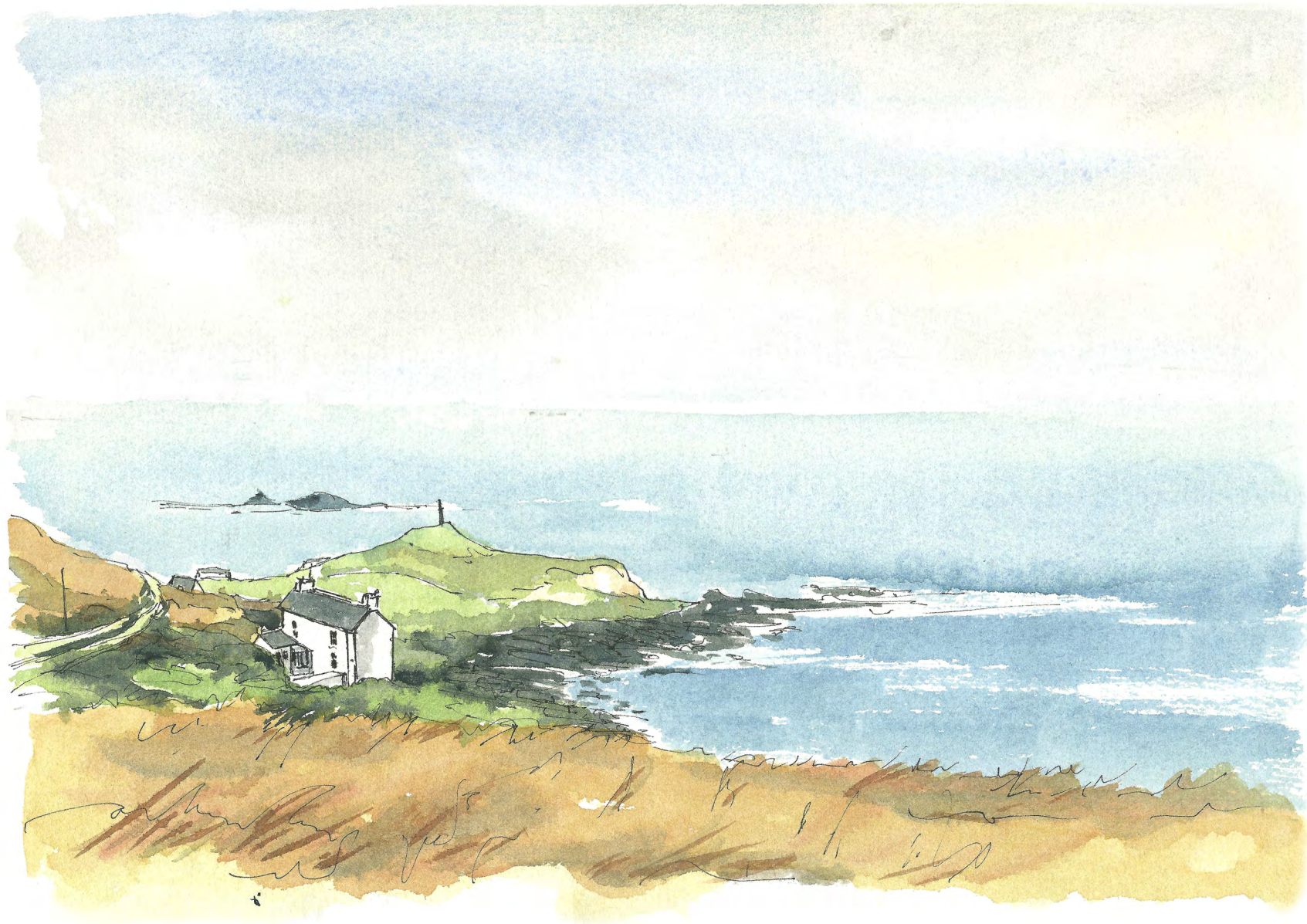
Look, traveller, on this outcrop now:  
Another age in this same place.  
Look, stranger, on this weathered legacy:  
Another place in this same age.



## Cape Cornwall

They measured, calculated, took their sightings,  
Triangulated distance, swept the stars.  
Which cape, projection, promontory  
Could satisfy the search for closure, make complete,  
Give boundary to their sense of nation?

What dull cartography can eventually achieve  
Legend and culture do by grace surpass.  
With beacon, burial mound and balance,  
Its perfect green goose back confirms  
Cape Cornwall the connoisseurs' Land's End.





## ABOUT ANDY & VALLY

Andy Christopher Miller is a widely published poet, author and psychologist. A winner of the Yeovil Poetry Prize, Andy has also served as an Honorary Professor at the Universities of both Nottingham and Warwick. Over a fifty-year period, he has walked the entire coast of Cornwall and has climbed on all its major sea cliffs. Vally Miller is a landscape artist who has exhibited her work in the UK and in Europe. Over the last forty years she has taught drawing and watercolour painting to adults and children. Andy and Vally are currently collaborating on verse and art projects, exploring how each form inspires the other. They live in the Peak District.

