

Travelling in a Strange Land by **David Park**

I was amazed to find the journey described in this book is from Belfast to Sunderland University. That was the last place of my employment before I retired and moved over to Jordanstown to be near family. So the journey is one I know very well indeed. However, I wouldn't be keen to undertake it in the snow as our hero does in this book. The treacherous conditions create tension straight away & draw us in.

Once he is on his way from Cairnryan via Carlisle to Sunderland he is able to relax a little and his mind goes back to those thoughts which keep disturbing his peace. From the corner of his eye he seems to see someone who is missing. I know the feeling, as for months after I moved here I kept thinking I could see someone I knew in a crowd - only to remind myself that the person lived miles away across the Irish Sea.

Several snow-related things happen, including interactions with people along the way, delaying his journey and making us wonder if he will make it. What is it that causes him to regret things he has done in the past? Only at the end of the book do we discover the cause of his anguish and his part in it. Was it all his fault? It is up to you, the reader, to decide.