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Lost In The Wild: Danger And Survival In The North Woods



Synopsis

In the wilderness, one false step can make the difference between a delightful respite and a brush with death. On a beautiful summer afternoon in 1998, Dan Stephens, a 22-year-old canoeist, was leading a trip deep into Ontario's Quetico Provincial Park. He stepped into a gap among cedar trees to look for the next portage and did not return. More than four hours later, Dan awakened with a lump on his head from a fall and stumbled deeper into the woods, confused. Three years later, Jason Rasmussen, a third-year medical student who loved the forest's solitude, walked alone into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness on a crisp fall day. After a two-day trek into a remote area of the woods, he stepped away from his campsite and made a series of seemingly trivial mistakes that left him separated from his supplies, wet, and lost, as cold darkness fell. Enduring days without food or shelter, these men faced the full harsh force of wilderness, the place that they had sought out for tranquil refuge from city life. *Lost in the Wild* takes readers with them as they enter realms of pain, fear, and courage, as they suffer dizzying confusion and unending frustration, and as they overcome seemingly insurmountable hurdles in a race to survive.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I bought this book in the Minneapolis Airport with the thought I would start it on my flight. Once I started reading I immediately could relate to the plight of the two central characters and those trying to help. This is an amazingly well written book and near impossible to put down. If you have ever wondered what it was like to be lost and looking death in the face this is one book you should not miss. This is a must read for even the casual weekend hiker who ventures into the woods for

leisurely strolls.

I read this book in a day -- what makes it so gripping is that the facts of each account are detailed without comment, which lets the reader come to his/her own conclusions. I was frustrated with the boy scouts (they left their guide behind!) and inspired by the team that rescued Rasmussen. While the back and forth between the two stories of survival may work for some, I prefer to read one account straight through, which is easy enough to do, since the chapters are clearly laid out. Highly recommended for fans of other survival books like *Into the Wild*, *Touching the Void*, *Into Thin Air*, and *Alive*.

I looked forward to reading from this book whenever I could. I enjoy wilderness survival stories and found this one to be well-researched and written. I haven't ever been to Northern Minnesota so the book taught me about the wilderness there and delivered a home run on the survival stories. The author did a good job of transitioning back and forth between two survival stories separated in time, but in the same general area. There were about 20 awkward words that caused me to pause and scratch my head as to the meaning . . . simpler words could have been used to make the sentences flow more smoothly. *Lost in the Wild* is a good book to read for anyone venturing out into the wilderness. There are some good lessons-learned from these characters. It is amazing how quickly you can get lost in the wild. If you like real outdoor adventure stories, you may also consider reading *Rocky Mountain Adventure Collection*. Cary, thank you for the enjoyable reading.

I started this book right after a visit to the area where these events took place. I met one of the rescuers and he casually mentioned the book. I bought it based on that comment but I didn't expect the book to be as well-written or as engrossing as it was. I stayed up well past my bedtime the first night and finished it a few days later in one sitting. It's all I could think about during that time. The author did an excellent job of researching the events so that the reader can feel what it was like to be in the wilderness with the lost men and with the rescuers. It's an amazing story and it's very well told. Highly recommended!

Easy to get Lost in this Gripping Narrative....You may find this book hard to put down once you delve into it. Two parallel narratives of fairly savvy backcountry trekkers who make some mistakes for which they almost pay with their lives. We so rarely encounter *The Wild* in our urban and suburban lives. It helps to remember sometimes just how fragile the membrane is that separates

survival from death.

I enjoyed the theme of this book, but I did not care for the way the author went between the two stories after each chapter. It reminded me of a soap opera when you view a short segment and then break away to another story line with another set of circumstances. I would have enjoyed reading each of the survival stories from start to finish and then after completing both rescues review the similarities and all that the two have in common. I would recommend this read to others that have an interest in the outdoors and survival stories in general.

"Lost in the Wild" is one of those books where you really want to see what happens next. Just one more chapter. Okay one more. It's an easy read that's hard to put down. The book follows the unfortunate misadventures of two different people who get lost in the woods. Two separate stories that take place in different places and different times. The book goes back and forth between the two, showing how each person got lost and what happened afterwards. The details are interesting, especially since I spend a lot of time in the backcountry myself, and the author does a great job of making us understand how perfectly capable people get into bad situations. Both stories are compelling and the reader gets to know not only those who are lost, but their companions, rescuers, families, etc. All in all it's an enjoyable book that keeps you turning pages to see what happens next. The only drawback is that, in hopping back and forth, sometimes one story can get confused with another, temporarily. Once both victims are lost, on foot, in similar environments, there are too many similarities to keep straight all the time. Maybe that's just me (and not a problem that others will have), but two stories farther apart or in different conditions might have been easier to separate. All in all a good book for anyone interested in adventure, exploration, or survival.

Built around two outdoorsy dudes who get lost in the woods, this is a compelling account of how two guys get lost and then found in very different ways. The book has a great pace, moving first between the two soon-to-be-lost dudes, then once they're lost, back-and-forth between the lost dudes and those out searching for them. Like all good lost-in-the-woods books, this one does the job of making you think "Damn, that could be me!" Griffith is thorough as all hell, researching the areas where the dudes got lost, the guys themselves, what happened to them, and then the nitty-gritty of their respective rescues. This book never gets tedious or bogged down in details. It keeps moving through the struggle and frustration of being lost in the wild. My missing star is due to the fact that Griffith doesn't offer many of his own observations about the accounts, and his writing is a bit direct

for my taste. I appreciate the occasional writerly flourish in a book like this one, and I'd like to know what Griffith thought about it all. Those features are missing in this attempt at objectivity. It's a small complaint; you're still going to like the book and learn a lot from it. So here's what I learned from this book in terms of what NOT to do out in the wood:- don't jump carelessly around on rocks, especially if you're alone- always carry some basic survival stuff, even if you're just 25 yards from your group- once off trail and starting to get lost, stop, regroup, and start marking your trail- have about 10 ways to start a fire- if you do get lost, stick with your gear and supplies (duh)- if you get lost, stay in place and all that ... but also stay hydrated- if you get lost, create a signal to alert air rescue teams

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