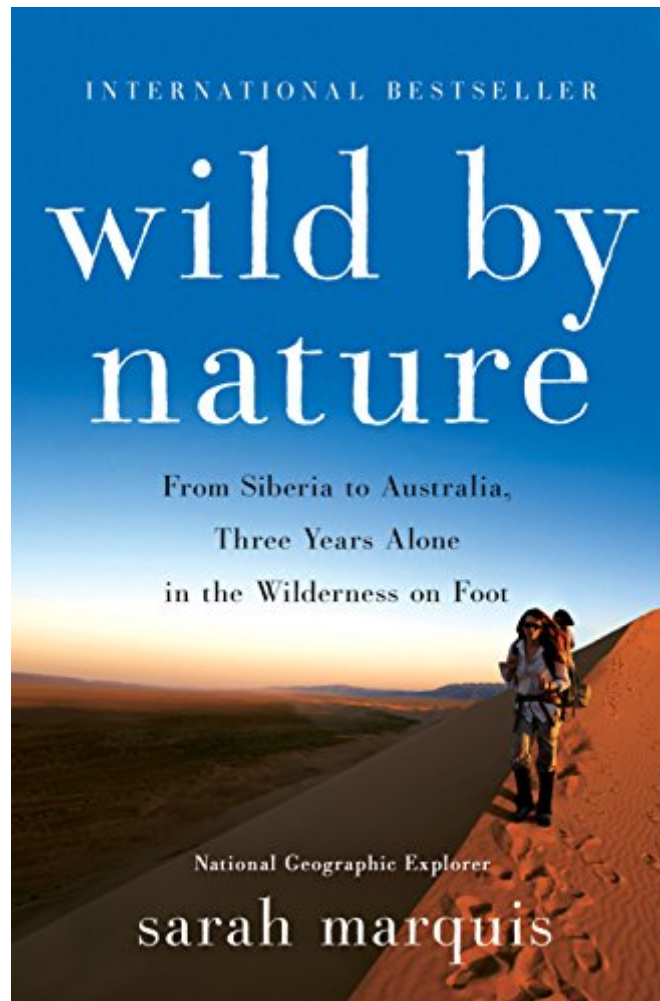


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Wild By Nature: From Siberia To Australia, Three Years Alone In The Wilderness On Foot



Synopsis

One woman 10,000 miles on foot 6 countries 8 pairs of hiking boots 3,000 cups of tea 1,000 days and nights "The only way to survive three years of walking was to embrace the moment of now." —from *Wild by Nature* Not since Cheryl Strayed gifted us with her adventure on the Pacific Crest Trail in her memoir, *Wild*, has there been such a powerful epic adventure by a woman alone. In *Wild by Nature*, National Geographic Explorer Sarah Marquis takes you on the trail of her ten-thousand-mile solo hike across the remote Gobi desert from Siberia to Thailand, at which point she was transported by boat to complete the hike at her favorite tree in Australia. Against nearly insurmountable odds and relying on hunting and her own wits, Sarah Marquis survived the Mafia, drug dealers, thieves on horseback who harassed her tent every night for weeks, temperatures from subzero to scorching, life-threatening wildlife, a dengue fever delirium in the Laos jungle, tropic ringworm in northern Thailand, dehydration, and a life-threatening abscess. This is an incredible story of adventure, human ingenuity, persistence, and resilience that shows firsthand what it is to adventure as a woman in the most dangerous of circumstance, what it is to be truly alone in the wild, and why someone would challenge themselves with an expedition others would call crazy. For Marquis, her story is about freedom, being alive and wild by nature.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Let me start by saying that I'm a self confessed armchair adventurer. With the likes of Ed Viesturs I've gone up K2. With George Grinnell I've witnessed travesty unfold on the barrens of Canada, and with Tabor I've descended amazingly deep within the bowels of the earth. I've also walked with woman hikers. Jennifer Pharr Davis in CALLED AGAIN and Patricia Herr in PEAK BAGGING, and Cheryl Strayed's WILD, just to name a few. And I mention all these titles for two reasons. One to let you know what literature is out there if you are just getting started with your own armchair adventuring; and two, to show that I have a fairly good grasp of what the literature looks like. Which is to say that I almost know what I'm talking about. So WILD BY NATURE... The first thing I noticed was that you can tell that an American didn't write this book. The author is Swiss I believe and speaks French. Certainly her sentence structure and thought processes seem European to me. So that was not lost in converting this book to English. Her world view though is different and that took some getting used to. The second thing I noticed, and which is of a lot more importance is that the book is not written like a diary or a reconstruction of a story based on a diary. It's more remote, like she had no written record to call upon, and maybe that's why I never felt like I was there with her. When I climbed with Viesturs I felt the cold and the lack of oxygen. I didn't feel the 104 degree heat of Mongolia. And what is more distressing than the lack of immediacy is that the author has edited out thoughts and actions. A perfect example of this is the scary night visits she experienced when in Mongolia.

Reading about this journey reminds me of a made-for-TV production, like a combination of "Survivor" meets "National Geographic." Sarah Marquis works for National Geographic and is labeled an "extreme walker." Her walks are sponsored and she has a support team back in Switzerland (her native country) she can fall back on when things go wrong along the way. These all-expense-paid trips somehow make her journeys contrived, highly edited and made to show extremes along the way. She maintains a blog, and writes in both French and English. While Marquis' descriptions of landscapes are beautiful, her lack of intimacy with her human subjects prevent the reader from truly experiencing the journey. It was thus hard for me at the start to get into this journey. She starts it out in Mongolia, and there's not a nice thing to say about the men here. The nomadic men are fat and have a tendency to urinate around her. Well, that's nice! They antagonize her at night when she's in her tent, so she quickly has to learn to get in survival mode and seeks dark culverts instead. Add to that the harsh Gobi desert that requires three attempts to cross, and you get quite an adventure. Things get better in China, although once again the men

seem more menacing. The trek through Siberia is marked with the death of her dog D'Joe back in Switzerland, but she continues on. In Laos she deals with drug traffickers who give her a real scare. Things improve a bit in Thailand and then in Australia everything ends and the journey's over. But why was this journey done? She never explains. Many things happen, especially in Mongolia, that are left a mystery.

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