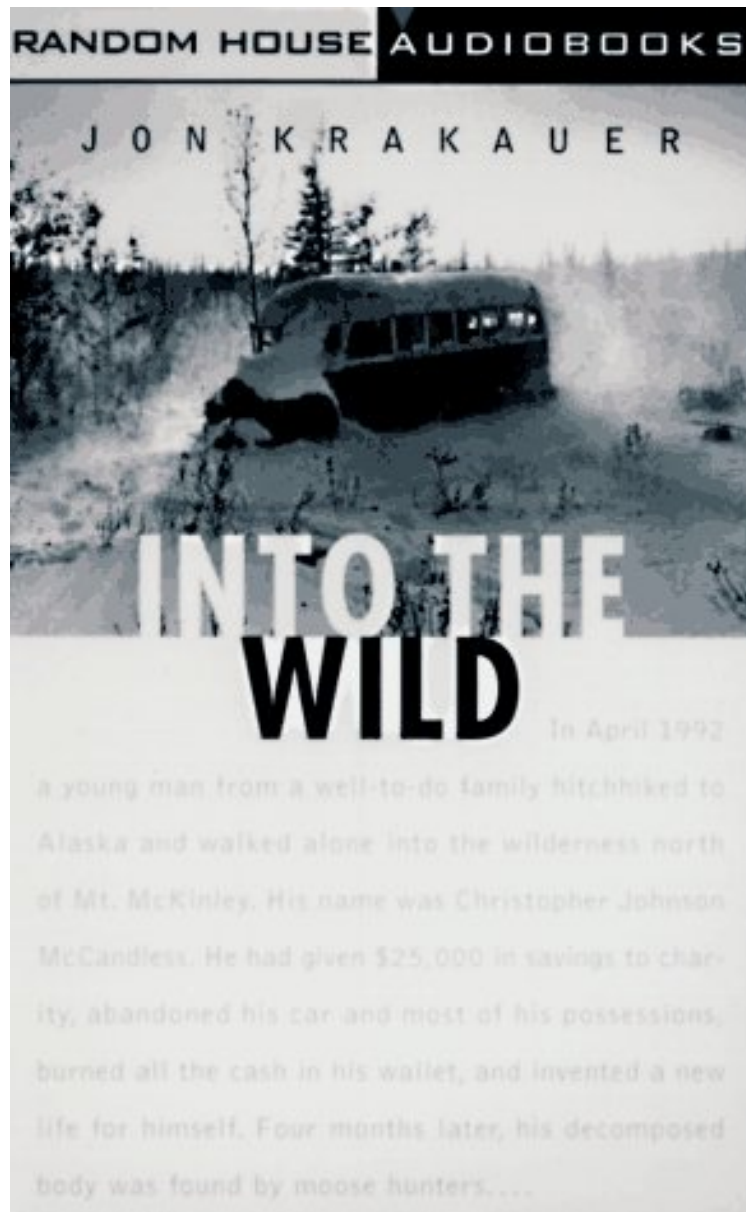


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Into the Wild

Jon Krakauer

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Jon Krakauer : Into the Wild before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Into the Wild:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Welcome Addition to My Library By dwserraol highly

recommend this book. Jon Krakauer goes into great depth describing this young man's life and adventures. He is able to smoothly weave in a wide range of similar events into the narrative, including some he has experienced in his own life. The story line is engaging. I read this book in two nights. If reading about outdoor adventures is your forte you should add this book to your library. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic book, exquisitely well-written. By Mike Victor Whatever you think about the subject of the book, Krakauer's telling of the story, weaving in his own and parallel narratives of young men gripped by a desire to test themselves by walking into the wild, is so masterful that it would be hard not to be mesmerized. When addressing the question of whether McCandless was suicidal, the author draws on his own adventure climbing Devil's Thumb: "At that stage of my youth, death remained as abstract a concept as non-Euclidean geometry or marriage. I didn't yet appreciate its terrible finality or the havoc it could wreak on those who entrusted the deceased with their hearts. I was stirred by the dark mystery of mortality. I couldn't resist stealing up to the edge of doom and peering over the brink. The hint of what was concealed in those shadows terrified me, but I caught sight of something in the glimpse, some forbidden and elemental riddle that was no less compelling than the sweet, hidden petals of a woman's sex. In my case and, I believe, in the case of Chris McCandless that was a very different thing from wanting to die." The quotations from Thoreau to Tolstoy to Jack London (usually sections found highlighted by Chris McCandless) place what could have been a pathetic, self-absorbed adventure gone terribly wrong into a much larger context, making it all start to make sense by the end of the book. "...suddenly you were on your own, you had to learn to walk by yourself. There was no one around, neither family nor people whose judgment you respected. At such a time you felt the need of committing yourself to something absolute life or truth or beauty of being ruled by it in place of the man-made rules that had been discarded. You needed to surrender to some such ultimate purpose more fully, more unreservedly than you had ever done in the old familiar, peaceful days, in the old life that was now abolished and gone for good." **BORIS PASTERNAK, DOCTOR ZHIVAGO** **PASSAGE HIGHLIGHTED IN ONE OF THE BOOKS FOUND WITH CHRIS MCCANDLESS REMAINS.** "I do not share McCandless's obsession with "the wild" but like most of us with a Y chromosome, I can relate at some primitive level. Our species evolved because of our extraordinary curiosity and desire to roam. Our ancestors all walked out of Africa only a few hundred thousand years ago and we have been walking ever since. The idea that there is nothing untamed left to explore or experience offends us somehow. McCandless took this idea to a ridiculous, tragic extreme, but it's hard not to respect the spirit driving him even if we can shake our heads at his naiveté. There are more questions than answers about this young man and his demise - did he realize he wasn't really in the wild after all but a few miles from a major highway? was he the one who vandalized and trashed the nearby well-stocked cabins? what exactly did he eat that may have so suddenly incapacitated him after he had survived so long on his own wits (and firearms)? had he survived, would he have returned home and reconciled with his family, having answered whatever burning question he had to answer on his own? I feel that Krakauer is inviting us into a crime scene. We have a body, some clues, but so many more questions. What Krakauer excels at developing is motive, taking us into the mind of this young man (who the author annoyingly refers to as a "boy" although he was approaching his mid-twenties) and walking us through his final days. It's a fascinating, gripping read. If I could give it 6 stars, I would. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Krakauer Creates Epic Americana By Big Sean Jon Krakauer's "Into the Wild" spins a beautiful tale that literally spans a continent and is as grand in scope as any American Dream envisioned by an uncompromisingly idealistic genius who ever decided to take The Road Less Traveled. Despite being concretely reportorial in his style, Krakauer still manages to bring to life the various backcountry (and backwater) locales that make this book impressively American. It's profound in its implications and will resonate deeply with anyone who has ever felt the call of the road, the inexpressible wanderlust of youth. If you read this and don't have a turmoil of clashing emotions for Chris McCandless / Alexander Supertramp, then you missed Krakauer's point entirely. This book is as enigmatic, disturbing, beautifully touching, and frustratingly incomprehensible as the country that engendered McCandless. This book will haunt you with a caldera of ambivalent emotions and theories about how and why a mystery of this magnitude occurred in the first place. Ultimately, Krakauer raises more questions than he answers, but, after all, isn't that precisely what a great piece of writing is supposed to do?

This is the haunting story of 22-year-old Chris McCandless, who walked into the Alaskan wilderness in the spring of 1992 and whose body--along with a camera with five rolls of film, an SOS note, and a cryptic diary written in the back pages of a book about edible plants--was found six months later by a hunter. Simultaneous hardcover release from Villard. 2 cassettes.

.com What would possess a gifted young man recently graduated from college to literally walk away from his life? Noted outdoor writer and mountaineer Jon Krakauer tackles that question in his reporting on Chris McCandless, whose emaciated body was found in an abandoned bus in the Alaskan wilderness in 1992. Described by friends and relatives as smart, literate, compassionate, and funny, did McCandless simply read too much Thoreau and Jack London and lose sight of the dangers of heading into the wilderness alone? Krakauer, whose own adventures have

taken him to the perilous heights of Everest, provides some answers by exploring the pull the outdoors, seductive yet often dangerous, has had on his own life. From Publishers Weekly After graduating from Emory University in Atlanta in 1992, top student and athlete Christopher McCandless abandoned his possessions, gave his entire \$24,000 savings account to charity and hitchhiked to Alaska, where he went to live in the wilderness. Four months later, he turned up dead. His diary, letters and two notes found at a remote campsite tell of his desperate effort to survive, apparently stranded by an injury and slowly starving. They also reflect the posturing of a confused young man, raised in affluent Annandale, Va., who self-consciously adopted a Tolstoyan renunciation of wealth and return to nature. Krakauer, a contributing editor to *Outside* and *Men's Journal*, retraces McCandless's ill-fated antagonism toward his father, Walt, an eminent aerospace engineer. Krakauer also draws parallels to his own reckless youthful exploit in 1977 when he climbed Devils Thumb, a mountain on the Alaska-British Columbia border, partly as a symbolic act of rebellion against his autocratic father. In a moving narrative, Krakauer probes the mystery of McCandless's death, which he attributes to logistical blunders and to accidental poisoning from eating toxic seed pods. Maps. 35,000 first printing; author tour. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Chris McCandless, an idealistic young man, abandoned all of his possessions and journeyed into the Alaskan wilderness in 1992, only to be found by hunters months later, dead. Author Krakauer begins his account with McCandless's tragic death. He then backtracks, outlining his subject's family history, travels, and inner life following McCandless's graduation from Emory University in 1992. Although his theory is open to debate, Krakauer attributes McCandless's death to logistical errors and accidental poisoning as opposed to starvation. His exploration of McCandless's odyssey in search of a "raw transcendent experience" provides some insight for families in similar crises and will prove popular with outdoor, recreation, and nature listeners. Recommended for most collections. Sandy Glover, West Linn P.L., Ore. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.