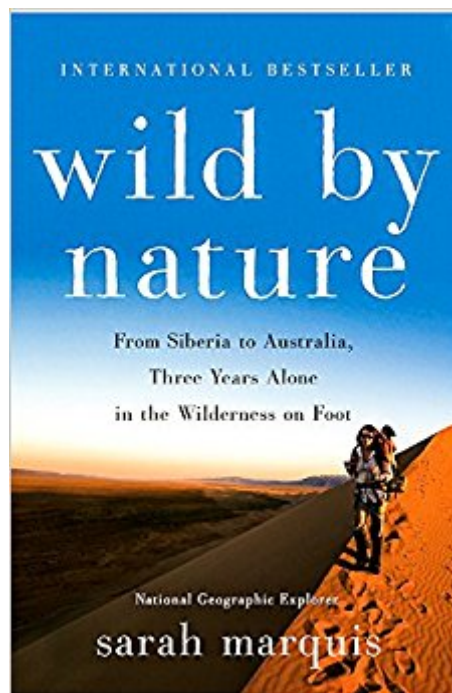




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Wild By Nature: From Siberia To Australia, Three Years Alone In The Wilderness On Foot



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." —Cheryl Strayed

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

"A vibrant epic, this wondrous book is, at its core, a story of resilience. Marquis is industrious, and I recommend this book to all people seeking to discover the massive magnitude of their own potential power. A triumph!" -Aspen Matis, author of *Girl in the Woods: A Memoir* "Destined to become a

classic in the travel writing genre. The descriptions of time and place are just detailed enough to become animated with life, and the author's courage is inspiring." -Library Journal (starred review)"Tough women explore the great outdoors alone: But while Strayed (author of Wild) is an amateur hiker, Marquis is a pro." -Entertainment Weekly"Straightforward and forthright, this is adventure writing as it was meant to be." -Booklist

— "A National Geographic Explorer of the Year in 2014 recounts her journey with the clear-eyed resolve and keen observational skills that make her a successful solo trekker."

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Book Page

National Geographic Explorer SARAH MARQUIS has been profiled in The New York Times Magazine and National Geographic. During the last twenty-three years, Marquis circumnavigated the globe on foot once and then stopped counting. She's been covered for solo expeditions in many countries, such as Australia and South America, and her first long walk was the famous Pacific Crest Trail in the United States.

Author walked a long way, but didn't describe as much as I would have liked to read about. Also, she didn't want to be with people so as a reader I didn't get to know the people along the way. I feel there were several things missing from this adventure.

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. For some reason men on horseback would show in the middle of the night at her camps no matter how hard she had tried to stay hidden. We are told about these strange and frightening occurrences but only in the vaguest terms. Not what the men said or did or how she reacted to them. When did they go away? What did they want? She doesn't tell us. Which I'm afraid is a cheat and not the way to go about writing this sort of thing up, imho. If there's something you don't want to address then for heaven's sake don't bring it up. It's not like we'll know the difference. Which brings my third and final point to the fore. There's some jumpiness in the telling. I'm used to reading the diaries of settlers so I'm comfortable with jumps in time in that format. But as I said this isn't a diary so the jumps are a little strange and unwelcome. And perhaps this ties into some of the continuity problems. One example is where she tells us her personal philosophy is to never stay in one spot for more than one night unless it is an absolute emergency. Then a couple of pages later she stops for 3 days and has a nice rest with a tour guide. She then tells us that she plans to ask him why the Mongolians are behaving in such an unexplained fashion -- women taking off their tops when in her presence and the men appearing in the middle of the night. She and the tour guide have a good laugh over these questions but we aren't let in on the answers. WHAT DO I REALLY THINK ::: I think this book has features of interest but that it's going to frustrate quite a few reviewers. One should definitely read a sample chapter before purchasing.

Not what I'd hoped for in a good read. I didn't feel that the book was well written, kind of disjointed. If she had written more about her actual every day experience, and less of her philosophy on life, I would have enjoyed it more.

Brave and driven women. However the story struggles to bring you into her adventure.

Not as good as I had anticipated. I had seen a prelude on a TV show and expected greater insight into the culture and people. I just got bored and gave the book away.

A good read. Her hiking accomplishments are impressive.

I don't even know where to begin... Sarah Marquis is my hero. She's one of the bravest, most inspiring women in the world to me. The book is a wonderful testament to her ferocious

perseverance and also has some very poignant and heart touching moments when you can feel her loneliness and sorrow at the loss of a beloved companion. For everyone who wants to truly know what wanderlust means, you should read this book.

Couldn't put it down. Her spirit and sensitivity to her surroundings added to the adventure.

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