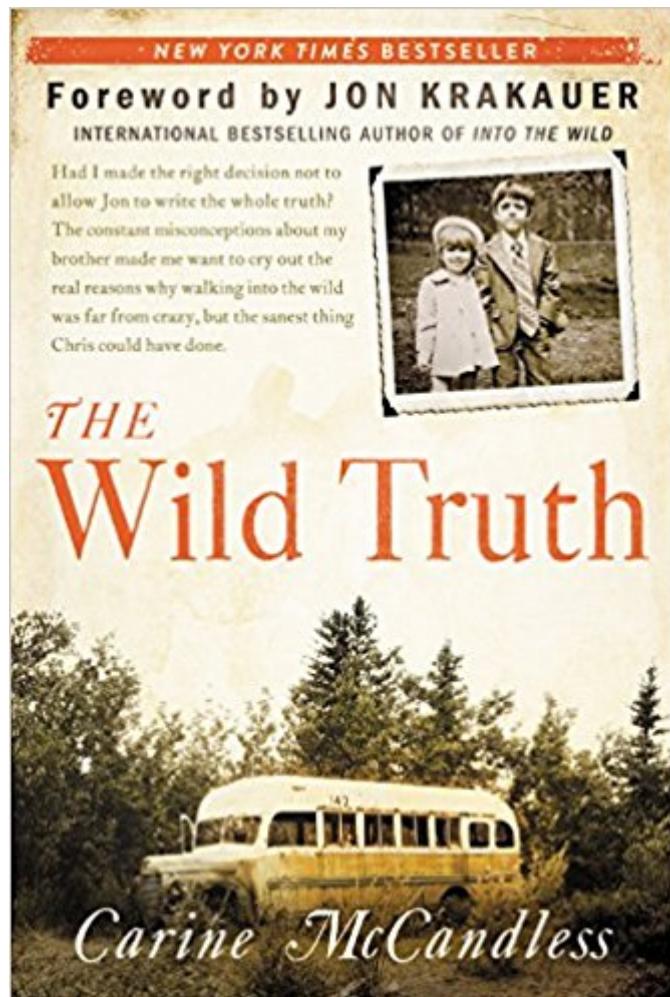


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The Wild Truth



Synopsis

The spellbinding story of Chris McCandless, who gave away his savings, hitchhiked to Alaska, walked into the wilderness alone, and starved to death in 1992, fascinated not just by New York Times' best-selling author Jon Krakauer, but also the rest of the nation. Krakauer's book, *Into the Wild*, became an international bestseller, translated into thirty-one languages, and Sean Penn's inspirational film by the same name further skyrocketed Chris McCandless to global fame. But the real story of Chris' life and his journey has not yet been told - until now. The missing pieces are finally revealed in *The Wild Truth*, written by Carine McCandless, Chris' beloved and trusted sister. Featured in both the book and film, Carine has wrestled for more than twenty years with the legacy of her brother's journey to self-discovery, and now tells her own story while filling in the blanks of his. Carine was Chris' best friend, the person with whom he had the closest bond, and who witnessed firsthand the dysfunctional and violent family dynamic that made Chris willing to embrace the harsh wilderness of Alaska. Growing up in the same troubled household, Carine speaks candidly about the deeper reality of life in the McCandless family. In the many years since the tragedy of Chris' death, Carine has searched for some kind of redemption. In this touching and deeply personal memoir, she reveals how she has learned that real redemption can only come from speaking the truth.

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Customer Reviews

“One of the driving points of *The Wild Truth* is that [McCandless]’s famous, ultimately fatal journey of adventure and discovery was motivated in large part by a desire to escape his parents’ Carine’s new book fleshes out the causes of Chris’ actions with much more detail and impact.” (Outsideonline.com) “A moving and revelatory saga.” (Boston Globe) “*The Wild Truth* is a moving narrative of domestic abuse, grief and survival, and for the perspective and revelations it contains, an essential addition to the *Into the Wild* story.” (Newsweek) “Fiercely honest and gripping. . . . She honestly shares her successes and failures in work and relationships as she comes to the realization that she has tried to find in adult life what was lacking in her childhood: worth, strength, and unconditional love.” (Publishers Weekly) “*The Wild Truth* is an important book on two fronts: It sets the record straight about a story that has touched thousands of readers, and it opens up a conversation about hideous domestic violence hidden behind a mask of prosperity and propriety.” (NPR.org) “Helping her readers become more familiar with the overwhelming burdens caused by dysfunctional parents is one of *The Wild Truth*’s major achievements. [McCandless] touches each of us [we] have a better sense of what drove her brother and compelled her to write about her own harrowing history.” (Anchorage Press) “Powerful . . . gripping to read.” (Examiner.com) “A powerful book.” For me, reading it was like finding a crucial missing word in the middle of a crossword puzzle: once those letters were filled in, the answers to the blank spaces around them also cascaded into place.” (Eva Holland, Vela Magazine)

In April 1992, a young man named Chris McCandless walked into the Alaskan wilderness, where he survived for more than 100 days before perishing in an abandoned bus. For over twenty years his story has captivated millions, and yet only one person knew the truth behind his remarkable journey—until now. Through a tumultuous childhood, the McCandless siblings clung to each other amidst a chaotic home life, forming a lifelong bond and an unbreakable trust. So when Chris abandoned nearly all of his possessions, cut off all family ties, and forged an anonymous existence on the road, Carine understood what drew Chris away from all he had known. Having to face her own truth and surmount some crushing obstacles in the absence of her beloved brother, Carine drew strength from his constant presence while forging ahead on her own unique journey. A powerful and deeply personal story, *The Wild Truth* is both a revelatory glimpse into the life of Chris McCandless and the inspirational tale of one woman’s resilience in the wake of unspeakable tragedy. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Although the writing is clunky and at times overwrought, the central purpose of this book is the much-needed insight into the incredibly damaging environment in which the 2 youngest McCandless kids were raised. I think the abusive environment made it very easy for Chris to cut off all contact in an attempt to define himself as a man separate from Walt. He did the extraordinary (abandoning his formerly materially-comfortable life for a meagre existence) because he was from an extra-ordinary situation. The very foundation of the second McCandless family was built on a lie, and that which is a lie cannot stand, it may take a few decades but it will fall. The core of the second family, which was Chris and Carine, seem more damaged than the first family (the other 6 kids) probably because of the persistently detrimental effects of living full time with two incredibly personality-disordered people. We don't get much insight into the other mother, but it seems the very act of separating from Walt and claiming her own life and dignity back made a huge difference on the older kids. They all seem to be successful and *normal* in a way that Chris and Carine are not. Perhaps their mother was not as nuts. Walt and Billie were so wrapped up in themselves and their dynamic drama that real parenting seemed to take a back seat. What little energy was left after trying to kill each other or the kids was spent on their careers and *looking good* to the community. They are almost textbook narcissists. Carine is not the easiest person to like; there are shades of her mother's willfulness and self-righteousness in her actions, and she can seem more self-absorbed than self-reflective. Because she and Chris lost contact just at the point his story gets interesting, she can offer little insight into the man he was becoming, she can only reveal the boy he was.

this book is wonderful if you are already interested in Chris McCandless' story, but it is a bit too detailed for someone who is not, or who only has a general interest in the family's story. I thoroughly enjoyed it but some people would probably find it a bit too much one narrow topic.

I was a huge fan of *Into the Wild* so when I saw this I knew I had to read it. It sheds some light on things that were left to the imagination in *Into the Wild*, and it's amazing at giving a real insight into the lives of Christopher and Carine and the motivation behind his journey. It fills in some gaps but also tells Carine's story, though they are intertwined as one. I have and will continue to recommend this pair of books to people who love to read nonfiction and are looking for something that is relatable and amazing. It's a tragic story, but it is filled with lots of love and insight. It is inspiring yet

sad, but most of all it will have to asking yourself questions.

I appreciate the bravery, truth and strength it took for Ms. McCandless to write this book. I saw the movie and bought it - watching it several times. Some parts of the book hit home for me in regard to explaining her mother's behavior. Its very similar to the behavior of one of my siblings. Not the physical abuse, but the mental abuse and dramatic games always putting on the game face for others. My other siblings followed suit. After figuring out after yet another crazy confrontation, full of untruths and being told my parents never wanted me around (they had passed 10 years previous) I had to make the decision to cut all ties. So thank you Corine. The information you bravely shared helped me to understand my situation better.

I was drawn to read this book as I had read Jon Krakauer's book "Into the Wild." That book is a compelling non-fiction account of a young man named Chris who leaves home, and ends up alone in the Alaskan wilderness. He eventually dies there, basically having starved to death. When I saw the review of "The Wild Truth" I was intrigued with the "true" account of events. Well, this book is a true account, but not of Chris's story but of the author who was Chris's sister, Carine. While I recognize that the highly dysfunctional family from which she and Chris came no doubt is part of what motivated him to go "into the wild" much of this book details Carine's own life struggles. Frankly, that was less interesting to me.

The book told about abuse from the parents and the family's dysfunction. But I feel like the reader needed more detail to get a better understanding to how bad it was, in order to make Chris walk away. The parents although screwed up, seemed to do a lot for Carine and Chris. They seemed to have many opportunities that other children don't have. I would have given this book a higher rating if I had a better understanding of what exactly these two kids went through. Thanks for all the pictures. Always helps to put a face to a name.

An okay read. If you're looking to find out more about Chris McCandless you're probably not going to with this book. While it does offer a more in depth look of his childhood we don't learn much more than that. This book is ultimately about Carine McCandless which makes sense given that this is her book but I find that many will be disappointed by it. The writing was mediocre and the story line jumps around a lot even within the flashbacks there are other flashbacks that at times it's confusing.

I never read Into The Wild nor did I see the movie. But I heard about Chris and Carine McCandless through other articles so I was familiar with the subject. Nothing could have prepared me for the raw outpouring of emotional truth and despair. I commend Ms. McCandless for her no holds barred experience of her and her brother and extended family's childhood. Clearly this is a stand alone book. But I will now need to read Into The Wild. Thank you for such a great read!

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