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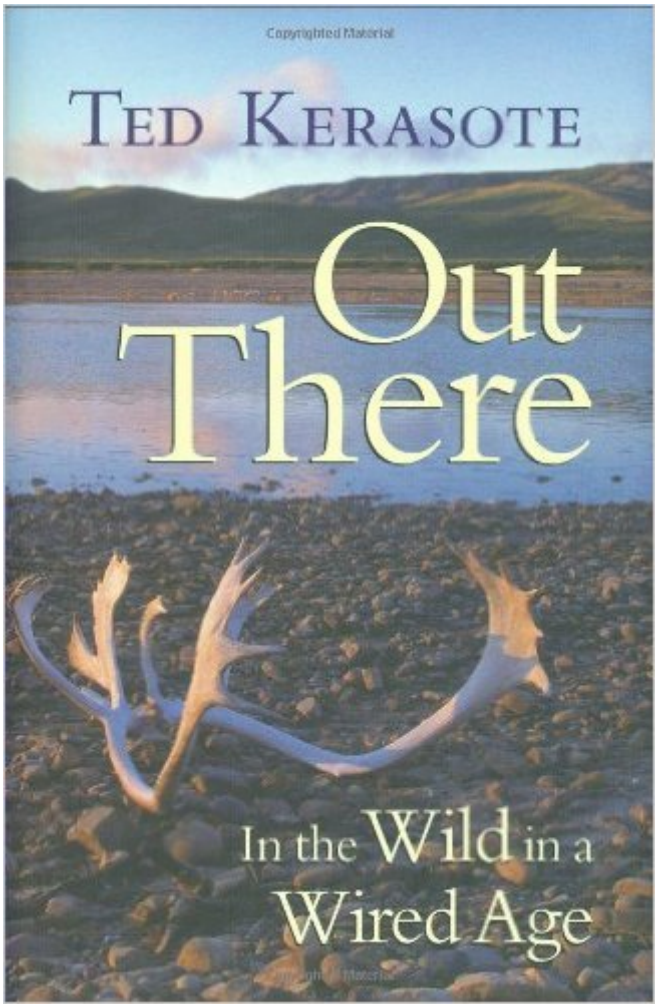
Out There: In The Wild In A Wired Age



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Synopsis

WINNER, 2004 NATIONAL OUTDOOR BOOK AWARD! (Outdoor Literature) Who hasnt wanted to get away from cell phones, e-mail, roads, and traffic? And what better place to escape our wired world than the far northwestern corner of Canadas Northwest Territories and a river that flows through uninhabited country, 400 miles to the Arctic Ocean. But what if your canoeing partner brings along a satellite phone to use in case of an emergency? And, struck by the novelty of anywhere-on-earth communication, he proceeds to use the phone to check in with his law office, his wife, kids, sisters, father, and friends? Noted wilderness traveler and author Ted Kerasote deals with just such a situation as he journeys along the Horton River through the largest ice-free, roadless area left on Earth, a stunning wilderness of grizzly bears, caribou, and migrating birds. Between navigating rapids, slipping around musk ox and grizzlies, and being pinned down by Arctic storms, the two friends prod each other into a finer understanding of love, marriage, parenting, and the meaning of solitude in an increasingly wired world. Contrasting his own experiences with those of the regions earliest explorers--Sir John Franklin and Vilhjalmur Stefansson--Kerasote provides a compelling and humorous take on how travelers from any age adjust to being away from their civilizations and how getting "out there" has inevitably changed but has also remained the same--especially if you shut off the phone.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I must admit, when reading the description on the inside of this book’s jacket I was a little nervous about reading this book. It reads "Who hasn’t wanted to get away from cell phones, e-mail, roads,

and traffic? ... But what if your canoeing partner brings along a satellite phone to use in case of an emergency? And, struck by the novelty of anywhere-on-earth communication, he proceeds to use the phone to check in with his law office, his wife, kids, sisters, father, and friends?" I really didn't want to read a book that lectures one of the merits of getting totally disconnected from civilization.What I found when reading Ted's book was a wonderful story of a great canoe journey through a truly wild landscape. During their journey they encounter grizzly bears, gold and bald eagles, Gyrfalcons (one of my favorite birds), grayling and char fish, musk ox, and many other wild creatures. This book is filled with some historical accounts of artic exploration as well as some of the natural history of the region and its wildlife. We learn both where the river got its name as well as some interesting features about musk ox. And, yes there is some contemplation on the value of detaching from the modern world and getting immersed in the natural world, but this is only one small part of a larger story.All in all, it is a excellent nature adventure book which is both entertaining and informative. I highly recommend it. It inspires me to want to take another Canadian wilderness canoe trip. It has been over 20 years since my first Canadian Wilderness Canoe trip with my father and Boy Scout Troop.

After his earlier books (Bloodties, etc.), one would hardly have thought that he could do it again. But there's an amazingly deep mind and a poetic soul at work here--the words of a man who has traded off some of the more mundane pleasures of life for an honest, strenuous existence. Ted Kerasote's voice rings true and clear, whether he's writing about elk hunting or (as here) white water canoeing. Absolutely not to be missed, if you have even the faintest interest in what "wilderness" means!

Great writing about both his wilderness experience(s) and interesting, poignent comments on life and relationships. I can't imagine anyone would be disappointed with this book.

Well it started with Merle's Door. After that wonderful book I wanted to read more about the writer and see what else he had up his sleeve. Well I was not dissappointed with this book. What a joy to read. Every sentence, every word was descriptive. He does not waste words. Very enjoyable and a pleaseure to read. It feels like you are right there with him enjoying the same visual treat, in the canoe, watching the wildlife or lying in the tent while the rain pours from the skys. I love the way this guy writes. I too used to camp and canoe until work and worries kept me with my nose to the computer or exhausted from work stretched out on the couch. He has inspired me to see nature and be apart of it again. I am going to plan another camp/canoe trip soon and enjoy it all over again.If

you like nature, being a part of it or just reading about it, this book is for you. It takes you away. Breathes new life into you, inspires you to enjoy what God has given us and to take care of it. And also to realize it is up to us to protect it. This guy is a TRUE nature lover. I want more Ted Kerasote books. Merle's Door is still my favorite, but this book comes in second:)I think his next book will come in third:):):)

This book was the first time I have read Kerasote - I completed it in two sessions. I thought it was brilliantly written. It had an educated style, which means I enjoyed occasionally checking some less common words (but cleverly appropriate)in my dictionary. This was an enthralling account of two basically dissimilar friends undertaking a great canoe trip down the Horton River toward the Arctic Ocean. I just wasn't willing to put the book down until the trip was over - the reader was right there with them. At one stage, I hoped for some photographs to supplement the map in the book - but then again Kerasote's writing was so good that I had a clear word picture of the events. Perhaps this was in keeping with the general theme of making do without everything on a platter? I found the historical notes provided a fascinating context for the modern day adventure. The professionalism of their outdoor skills was evident, and important for such a remote adventure. The potential 'clash' of the satphone was very much secondary to the description of the wonderful river trip itself. Actually, I thought the satphone was skillfully considered from a philosophical viewpoint - it was an issue that is very relevant now to modern mans interaction with serious wilderness adventure. This book was just brilliant stuff.

A voracious reader I discovered Ted Kerasote through the now legendary eyes of his dog Merle in MERLE'S DOOR in July of 2007. Easily bored, I have never read any book more than once but must confess in 1 1/2 years I have read Merle 4 times.....and I know I will read it again one day. OUT THERE was Ted Kerasote living my husband's fantasy and I finding myself wanting to experience the same adventure. Ted Kerasote unzips himself down the middle and bares his feelings in his writing from the depths of his soul. It is magical. He is easily the best author wrting today and anyone who misses any of his books has missed a part of a life most of only dream about. All of Ted Kerasote's books are must reads.

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