

**“A vivid, touching,
and ultimately
inspiring account of
a life unraveling, and
of the journey that
put it back together.”**

- Wall Street Journal



wild

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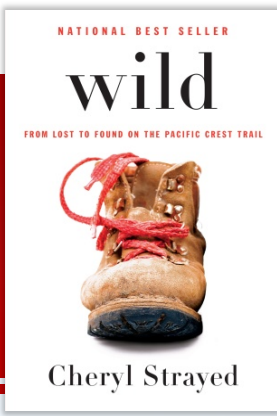
A powerful, blazingly honest memoir: the story of an eleven-hundred-mile solo hike that broke down a young woman reeling from catastrophe—and built her back up again.

At twenty-two, Cheryl Strayed thought she'd lost everything when her mother died young of cancer. Her family scattered in their grief, her marriage was soon destroyed, and slowly her life spun out of control. Four years after her mother's death, with nothing more to lose, Strayed made the most impulsive decision of her life: to hike the Pacific Crest Trail from the Mojave Desert through California and Oregon to Washington State—and to do it alone. She had no experience as a long-distance hiker—indeed, she'd never gone backpacking before her first night on the trail. Her trek was little more than “an idea, vague and outlandish and full of promise.” But it was a promise of piecing back together a life that had come undone. Strayed faces down rattlesnakes and black bears, intense heat and record snowfalls, and both the beauty and intense loneliness of the trail. Told with great suspense and style, sparkling with warmth and humor, *Wild* vividly captures the terrors and pleasures of one young woman forging ahead against all odds on a journey that maddened, strengthened, and ultimately healed her.

About the Author

CHERYL STRAYED is the author of the critically acclaimed novel *Torch*, which was a finalist for the Great Lakes Book Award and was selected by *The Oregonian* as one of the top ten books of 2006 by Pacific Northwest authors. Her stories and essays have appeared in numerous magazines, including *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Washington Post Magazine*, *Allure*, *The Missouri Review*, and *Self*, as well as in *The Best New American Voices* and in *The Best American Essays* twice. She is also the recipient of a Pushcart Prize.

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What readers are saying about Wild...

"I finished Wild and it's easy to say when something is "working" how good it is, but it really is SO GOOD. Much of the pleasure of our jobs comes from reading, but when you actually read for pleasure and it knocks your socks off it's a good, good feeling. I don't read much for pure pleasure nor do I read non-fiction so this was already in a deficit, but I wanted to read it because I love Robin Desser, the editor.

"**WILD is as emotional (almost) as THE END OF YOUR LIFE BOOKCLUB, as physically exhausting (almost), as INTO THIN AIR and is perfect for women readers of ALL stripes.** This isn't an outdoors book, nor is it "regional" or "American" and it's not a soppy soul-searching book either. It's a fantastic story that has all the ingredients I just mentioned mixed together for a near-perfect journey – physical, emotional, psychological, etc. – with appeal to women (there's so much to discuss as a young adult, mother/daughter, mother, daughter, family, friends, romantic relationships) and I think for university aged kids male and female. WILD makes it okay to check out for a bit no matter your circumstance, if you can do it time-wise and money-wise. That said, you don't need much of either as a trip can be much shorter than Cheryl's."

- Marion Garner , Publisher Vintage Canada

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