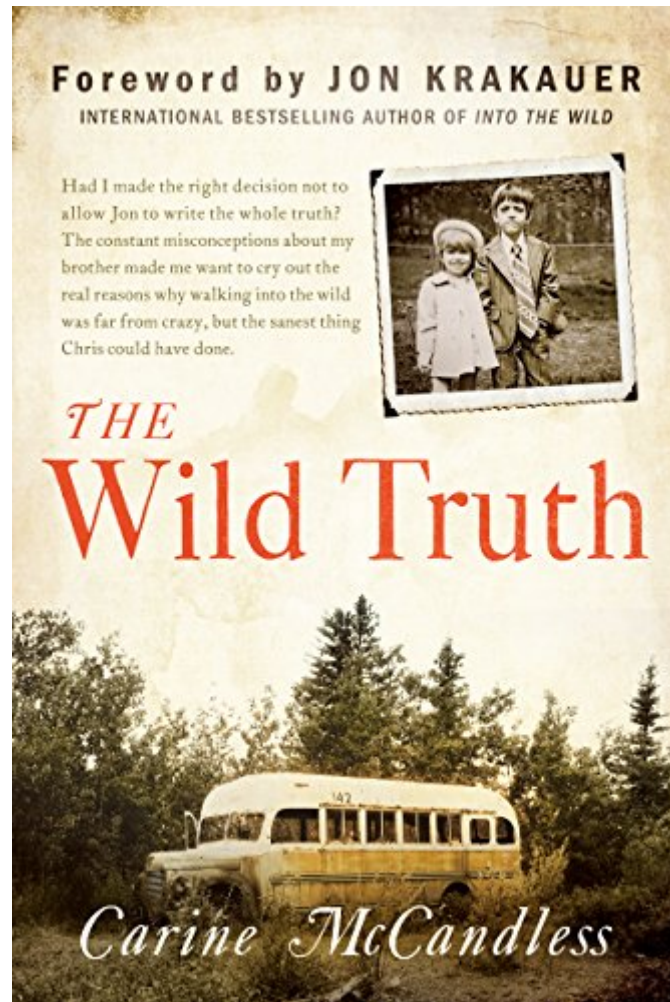


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The Wild Truth



Synopsis

A New York Times Bestseller "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 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 a New York Times bestselling 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's 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's 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's 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's 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

I have mixed feelings about *The Wild Truth*. It starts off with a bang. Right away, she's at her childhood home and declares, "I f\$&#* hate this house." And I thought, "OK, we're in for some raw, unbridled honesty here." But that kind of forthright bluntness becomes muted as she takes on a more formal tone, in an attempt to write "literary." Carine has my sympathy. Her life hasn't been easy and to live with constant reminders of her brother's legacy and tragic end has got to be painful. But I wished the book would've kept its focus on Chris. This book is really about Carine's journey, her relationship with her parents, Chris, her siblings and her ex-lovers. She spends a great deal of time uncomfortably justifying and defending her own life and legacy, as she continually pats herself on the back or holds herself up as a pillar for us all to emulate. She just skirts the edges of sanctimony, never quite going over the edge. The writing is clunky, phrases such as "email missives" when just "email" would've worked are peppered throughout the book. I found myself skimming whole passages where she went into great detail about something like her daughter playing with, uh, a ribbon, I think, I don't know, I checked out at that part. What really redeemed the book, for me, was strictly personal. There were scenes and recountings of conversations with Walt and Billie that were note-for-note perfect for ones I experienced with my own family that made me gasp. Plus, I've been fascinated by Chris' story for years, as I've felt he's a kindred spirit. I, too, have wandered around in nature, alone, searching, drinking in the peace. I think this book will be interesting to anyone who has survived an abusive childhood or to those who are Christopher McCandless completists.

I read *"Into the Wild"* long before it became a Hollywood film and found it to be one of the most disturbing, and sad accounts I had ever read. It was the sort of book that stays with you for days and seems to take up permanent residence somewhere inside your head. It was unforgettable. Jon Krakauer's sensitive rendering of the material indicated a deep and respectful understanding of the events that unfolded. And one did not have to read between the lines to discern the existence of familial discord; it was apparent, even if the author did not include full transcripts of letters penned

by Chris McCandless to his sister, Carine. Fast forward, and now appears a book that contends to present "the truth" about what drove this young man into the wild where he ultimately perished from starvation. I was intrigued by this. Perhaps Chris McCandless was gay, and had been rejected by his parents. Maybe he was sexually abused. Surely, a book with such a sensational headline ("The Wild Truth") would present the bombshell that would make the world say, "Oh....now it all makes sense." If you are interested in Carine McCandless this is the book for you. You will read of her likes and dislikes, what she did, where she went, who she married... But if you're reading this to glean deep insights into her brother, you won't. If you've read "Into the Wild" you already know that their father had another wife and six kids. You already know about the wealth; the high academic standards to which the kids were measured; the occasional violence and overall dysfunction. Therefore, this book to me is a disappointment because not only is it not particularly well-written, it fails to present anything that is entirely new or not previously documented.

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