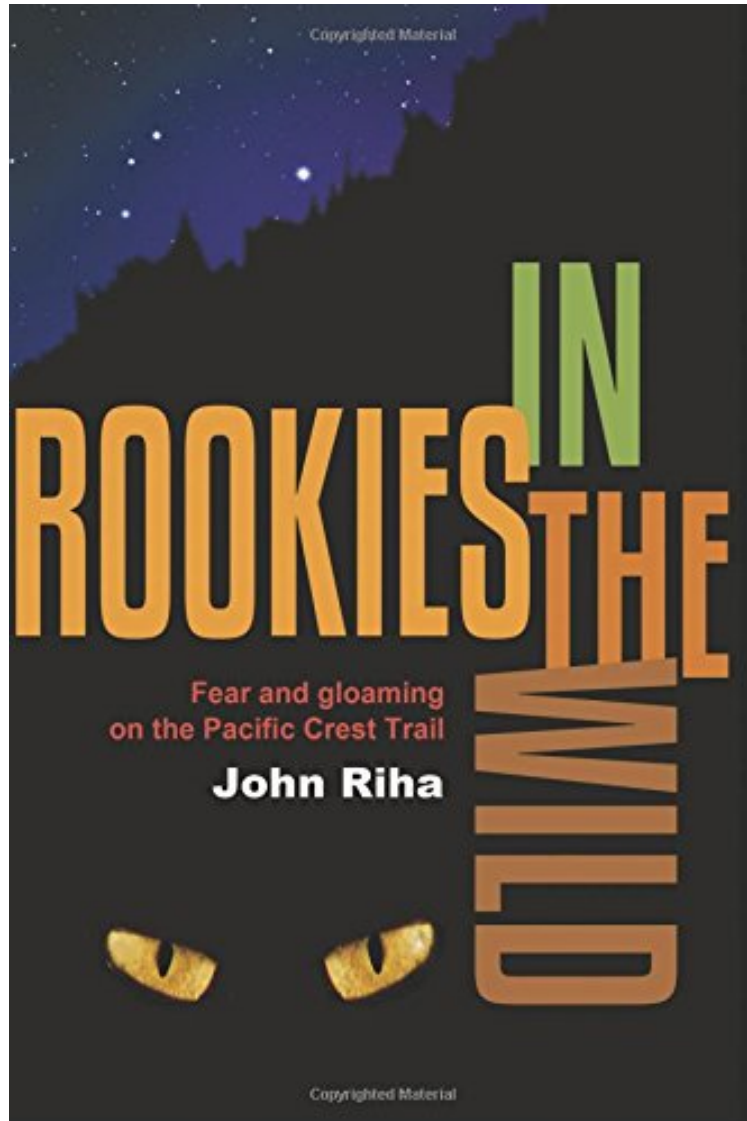


(Download) Rookies in the Wild: Fear and Gloaming on the Pacific Crest Trail

Rookies in the Wild: Fear and Gloaming on the Pacific Crest Trail

John Riha

*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#2009415 in Books John Riha 2013-12-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .41 x 6.00l, .56 #File Name: 0991157915182 pages Rookies in the Wild Fear and Gloaming on the Pacific Crest Trail | File size: 58.Mb

John Riha : Rookies in the Wild: Fear and Gloaming on the Pacific Crest Trail before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rookies in the Wild: Fear and Gloaming on the Pacific Crest Trail:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Dave Barry meets John McPhee By David Toht I don't normally enjoy reading about somebody else's trek in wilderness. After all, jaw-dropping natural beauty can rarely be conveyed

in words--even photos fall short. Ditto the sounds and smells of being in the deep wild. And isn't wilderness hiking mostly an internal journey, a personal trial of true grit--or the lack thereof--with perils and pleasures of little interest to somebody else? That's why John Riha's *Rookies in the Wild* came as such a pleasant surprise. His compelling account of the anticipation, preparation, and final execution of a hike with his son Nick on the Pacific Crest Trail was thoroughly enjoyable. Riha writes with wit and has the gift of tweaking out fascinating details about most anything related to wilderness hiking--the eccentric personalities who founded our national park system, why some freeze dried foods really do taste good, even the mysterious physics behind Gore-Tex--that amazing fabric that vents sweat yet keeps out rain. Riha's style is very much Dave Barry meets John McPhee and that makes for some wonderful reading. He also offers a huge amount of information about the very real dangers out there, especially critters. He doesn't pull any punches. Take the rattlesnake, a creature an innocent hiker might encounter while reaching for a handhold on a rock ledge. While Riha reassures us that they prefer rodents to humans and are happy to slither away at the sound heavy footfalls, they are undeniably "fat, bulbous coils of cold-blooded evil, squished-flat triangular head barely leaving room for the few primal synapses of which it is capable, a rudimentary, thermally activated trigger behind slit, liquid-marble eyes." And then there are cougars. Riha confesses to being phobic about cougars and after you read his detailed account of hiker Jim Hamm's near fatal attack (surgeons spent six hours stitching him together), you may be too. The fact that cougars have spread even into the Great Plains (even Chicago's North Side), boosts the chance a hiker may encounter one--part of the edginess that makes wilderness trekking something other than a walk in the park. If the father-son dialogue falls a little flat and you occasionally get too much information (you'll learn plenty about taking a dump in a cat hole), at its heart, *Rookies in the Wild* is piece of great service journalism--delightful to read and packed with useful stuff for anyone anticipating a first trek. If you've already ventured Out There, you'll find yourself remembering all sorts of things--the bliss of removing a pack at a long-looked-for campsite, the agony of an unmarked fork in the trail, the hair rising on your neck at a suspicious sound in the night, and finally, sitting once again in the flagrant luxury of a car seat, the delicious sense of being very "tired, dirty, hungry, and alive."

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good read
By Rivergirl
This author either new a lot about where he and his son were going to hike he did a lot of research. The details about the trees was really interesting. He was really quite witty about some of the hard ships on the trail. I really enjoy these kind of hiking stories. I'm from Northern California and know love the mountains, trees, lakes and rivers. Wished their was longer.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Going for the Gloam
By Craig Hawksley
An A-one read. Ostensibly a smart and funny little travelogue, *ROOKIES* turns out to be a man's chance to commune with nature, and, more importantly, to provide a rite-of-passage for his youngest son, one that the author himself never experienced. John Riha represents every man who hears the call of the wild, and responds like every (modern) man: He reads up on it first, buys all the gear second, and plunges in third. Fourth, he learns that time and experience are worth more than all the Coleman fuel in existence. I recommend the book for another reason: if the reader wants to go on their own search for nature on the Pacific Crest Trail or anywhere similar for that matter, John Riha has done the research on what to bring, what you'll find, how you'll know when you find it, and what to fear. In Riha's world, his biggest fear is tripping over his own tenderfeet. Like most good hikes, it's the trip--cougar sightings, mosquito bites and all--that makes life, and this book, worthwhile. And for the verbal tenderfoots out there (like me), the definition of 'gloaming' is, "the period of fading light after sunset but before dark." Riha entertainingly takes us through the gloam into the light of day. And he teaches us to always hang our food high enough to keep the wolf away.

Rookies in the Wild is the backpacking bible for those who don't backpack (and some that do). The true tale of a father and son who head off for one of the most beautiful—and ruggedly remote— areas of the country with no hiking experience, an overload of brand new gear, and a rich complement of paranoia. This comic, soft-core adventure story begins in Iowa and journeys to the Pacific Crest Trail in the Trinity Alps Wilderness of northern California. It's much about the West, the scale and the majesty, and it's filled with natural history anecdotes that underscore the raw beauty and mystique of America's last remaining wild places. *Rookies in the Wild* is about facing fears: man-eating cougars, intestinal parasites, shoddy parenting, and mortality. But it's also a story of grace: How nature forgives, forgets, replenishes, and enriches the spirit.

"I haven't laughed this hard since I read Bill Bryson's last book. John Riha's romp through the wilderness (with his son) is both funny and genuine."--Stephen George
Editor-in-Chief
Discovery magazine
From the Author
I've always been into writing, nature, and some form of carpentry. I grew up with lake houses, summer places which, as a small boy, balanced my suburban life with a magical universe full of waves and seaweed and tadpoles and rowboats, and where all things that mattered existed. Both my grandfathers were carpenters, and I inherited the gene, and have always been fascinated by wood and making things with my hands. I have built and remodeled houses but always have had a fondness for fine woodworking, for cabinet-making and furniture-building, for watching a single piece of raw wood become a thing of accomplished beauty. In this capacity, as construction aficionado, I've built a career, and parlayed my building experiences into journalism. I've been an editor on several national magazines, and I've authored

many books and articles on home improvement and maintenance. One of the best things about the West is that it's indescribable. Perhaps that's what makes it so intriguing for the writer. The scale, the raw beauty, the promise. From the Back Cover A journey into the wilderness will reconstitute a lost soul. At least that's the theory. But when a well-meaning dad decides to take his teenage son on a life-affirming backpacking trip along the Pacific Crest Trail, he unleashes deep-rooted fears of the unknown. Cougars, unreadable maps, Bigfoot, and iliotibial syndrome are conspirators in this comic misadventure set in the Trinity Alps Wilderness of northern California. Filled with natural history anecdotes, *Rookies in the Wild* is also a tribute to the scale, the majesty, and the healing power of America's last remaining wild places. John Riha has written for *Esquire*, *GQ*, *Men's Journal*, *This Old House*, and others. He lives in Ashland, Oregon, with his wife, Deb, and a tabby cat.