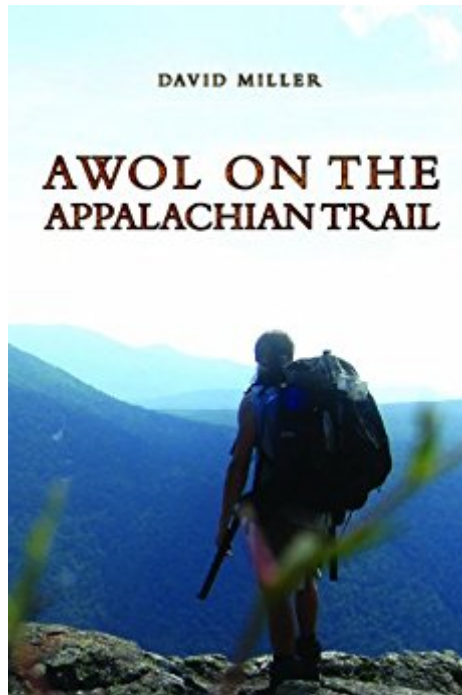




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# AWOL On The Appalachian Trail



## Synopsis

In 2003, software engineer David Miller left his job, family, and friends to fulfill a dream and hike the Appalachian Trail. *AWOL on the Appalachian Trail* is Miller's account of this thru-hike along the entire 2,172 miles from Georgia to Maine. On page after page, readers are treated to rich descriptions of the valleys and mountains, the isolation and reverie, the inspiration that fueled his quest, and the life-changing moments that can only be experienced when dreams are pursued. While this book abounds with introspection and perseverance, it also provides useful passages about safety and proper gear, with a view into a professional hiker's preparations and tenacity. This is not merely a travel guide, but a beautifully written and highly personal view into one man's adventure and what it means to make a lifelong vision come true.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Enjoyable read - not demanding, but very satisfying. He shared a journey I'd not be brave enough to actually take, and let me see it through his eyes. Appreciated reading about the people - personalities good and not so good - the places, the hardships, the scary moments, and the

highlights. His descriptions seemed fair, realistic, as he pointed out some of the best - in people, in nature - that our country has to offer. A wonderful - comforting, even - trip thru a sometimes very generous land. This is a book I'll reread, especially when I want to forget the news and remember what's good about our world.

I received my book a couple of days after ordering it. Great packaging...fast shipment...this is what you come to expect but rarely get. I'm almost halfway done with the book. I love AWOL's writing style. Reading this book reminds me of my Army days as a Calvary Scout. The extreme blisters all the way to feet bleeding. In all honesty he paints the difficulty on the mild side. I'm looking forward to doing the AT in 2019. One thing I was hoping he would write about was some of the preparation he did before setting foot on the AT. I'm a flatlander where I live and will have to train at.

It's not always that something touted as a "Must read!" truly is, but if you have designs on getting into backpacking and especially backpacking the AT, this one definitely is. Once you start, you do not want to put this down and you will become increasingly curious to find out how various thru-hikers ended up doing. Did they make it all the way? Did Steve-O go to jail?

I adore the AT, I pretty much eat, sleep & breathe it. I like to read as much as I can about it & have my own dream of attempting a thru hike. This book put me right there on the trail with AWOL. I enjoyed meeting his fellow hikers and loved his writing style, it flowed very easily. One of the best AT books I have read.

I read this on recommendation from readers of Wild who thought that book focused too much on Strayed's personal demons. This book certainly doesn't suffer from that; where the author delves into emotional segue it's mostly momentary day to day frustrations from his hike. I'm glad I read it, as I was curious to read an account of a thru-hike that actually focused on the experience of the hike itself, but the author's economy of description of moments I found exciting (bear encounters for example) made me wish he'd elaborated more on those points.

Enjoyed David Miller's tale of his adventures on the Appalachian Trail. I enjoyed Cheryl Strayed's book about the Pacific Crest Trail and just happened across this book about a thru hiker on the Appalachian Trail. I honestly had no expectations going in to this read. I found his recounting to be a good mix of trail tales and personal insights into why he did it and how he felt during the process.

Over the last thirty years I have read several books written about hiking the Appalachian Trail. Some are more memorable than others. In the past hikers wrote about their experiences in more vivid details, than "AWOL on the AT". I remember reading aloud those stories to my daughter and son. We were about to hike parts of the trail. We all laughed about Grandmom Gatewood. We felt we were with the man staring down the moose giving him the evil eye on a narrow trail in Maine. While author David Miller mentions bears and other animals, he doesn't make me feel I am there. Miller gives details about folks he meets, where he slept and what he ate. The man is a fast hiker, covering more miles a day than the average hiker. He talks about rain, rain, rain. I was surprised at how many times he stayed off the trail. In the 70's people seemed to get off the trail for the post office, laundry and other food pick ups. Just a few times they stayed in hostels. I didn't know about working for lodging. It was interesting to read about his wife, who stayed home with their children. The three would fly in to various locations for a few days together with Miller. I am glad that I read his book. It did hold my interest, particularly in the areas we hiked. The number of through hikers has increased greatly over the years. That may be why there are now so many places for hikers to lodge off trail. The physical part of the hike is somewhat easier than the mental. It isn't easy to keep going for months. I'm glad I downloaded and read the experience to/on my Kindle. Also I'm happy that Mr. Miller wrote of his experience of a life time.

Every chapter in this book could have ended with the same phrase: "Guess you had to be there." I'm sure the journey was amazing, but the emotion and excitement got lost in the writing process. Dry, uninspired commentary with an air of insecurity, self-importance, and a negative slant toward other hikers. Boring details and more information about the author's feet than anyone needed. AWOL waxes poetic in the epilogue about how this hike affected himself and others, but the monotonous narration suggests otherwise. Some good trail information and a few noteworthy stories, but I found myself hurrying to just get it over with. *A Walk in the Woods*, *Hikertrash*, and *Thru-Hiking Will Break Your Heart* are excellent hiking genre alternatives.

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