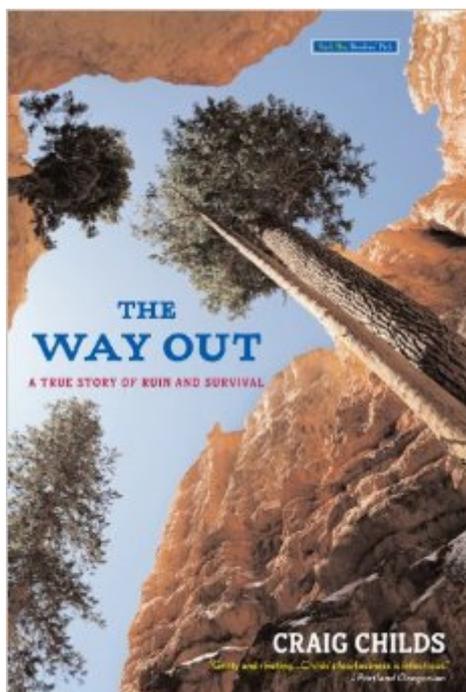


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# The Way Out: A True Story Of Ruin And Survival



## Synopsis

- A breakout book from a writer increasingly celebrated as the 21st-century bard of the American Southwest--a writer in the tradition of Barry Lopez, Peter Matthiessen, Terry Tempest Williams, among others. - In March 2003, Craig Childs received the Spirit of the West Literary Achievement Award, given to a writer whose body of work captures the unique spirit of the American West. - As a chronicle of adventure, as emotionally charged human drama, as confessional memoir, *The Way Out* is a transcendent book, a work destined to earn a lasting place in the literature of extremes. - Not since John Krakauer's bestselling *Into the Wild* has a book so compellingly explored the boundary between wilderness adventure and madness.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I really liked Craig Childs' *House of Rain*, partly because it offered interesting observations and reflections on the Anasazi (Ancestral Puebloans), a culture I have studied a great deal, and partly because of the author's skill at descriptive writing. That book left me wanting to know about the writer, an unusual person who spends weeks at a time walking across the southwest, even in the middle of winter. Hence, I was drawn to read *The Way Out*, which, in part, is a reflection on Childs' relationship with his father. In *The Way Out*, Childs' memories of his father, and the stories of Dirk Vaughn's former life as a cop, which were woven in and out of the tale of their hiking expedition, were interesting. Both of the companions had tortured pasts that, in a way, were mirrored in the torturous piece of nature they had to navigate. But I did not see much of a parallel between the "The Way Out" of their physical trek and "the way out" of their past experiences related to a "disturbed,

raging, alcoholic father" and the very difficult, violent, and painful, life of a police officer. (Perhaps the book's title was not supposed to apply to their life stories, which were such a prominent part of the reader's experience???) Dirk's "way out" of his past was to retire from police work (after a horrific car accident that caused a death prompted him to quit) and become involved in the rugged outdoors, which does not really relate well to the book's title. As for Childs' past related to his father, I now have pictures of the father from Childs' eyes, and pictures of some of Childs' experiences with him, but I have no idea how those experiences affected Childs' or how (or if) he found a "way out" of his father-son relationship. Or a "way through?"

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