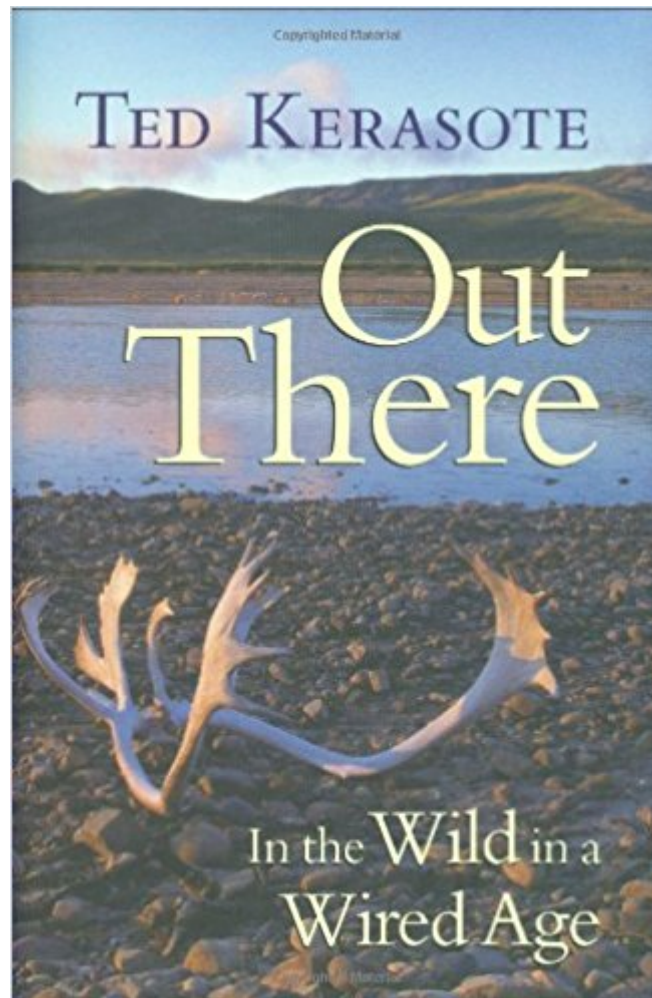




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# Out There: In The Wild In A Wired Age



## Synopsis

WINNER, 2004 NATIONAL OUTDOOR BOOK AWARD! (Outdoor Literature) Who hasn't wanted to get away from cell phones, e-mail, roads, and traffic? And what better place to escape our wired world than the far northwestern corner of Canada's Northwest Territories and a river that flows through uninhabited country, 400 miles to the Arctic Ocean. But what if your canoeing partner brings along a satellite phone to use in case of an emergency? And, struck by the novelty of anywhere-on-earth communication, he proceeds to use the phone to check in with his law office, his wife, kids, sisters, father, and friends? Noted wilderness traveler and author Ted Kerasote deals with just such a situation as he journeys along the Horton River through the largest ice-free, roadless area left on Earth, a stunning wilderness of grizzly bears, caribou, and migrating birds. Between navigating rapids, slipping around musk ox and grizzlies, and being pinned down by Arctic storms, the two friends prod each other into a finer understanding of love, marriage, parenting, and the meaning of solitude in an increasingly wired world. Contrasting his own experiences with those of the region's earliest explorers--Sir John Franklin and Vilhjalmur Stefansson--Kerasote provides a compelling and humorous take on how travelers from any age adjust to being away from their civilizations and how getting "out there" has inevitably changed but has also remained the same--especially if you shut off the phone.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The current carries us swiftly past the pilot and the three anglers downstream, all of whom are playing leaping grayling. An instant later, we're swept around a bend and out of sight. The

country immediately becomes so empty it seems as if we're the first people on Earth. Even after spending many years in the outdoors, in some very remote places, I always find this sudden change in consciousness a jolt. It's as if an unseen hand has literally flipped a switch in the universe. One moment I'm embedded in a world where motorized conveyances offer a quick escape to comfort and safety. The next, I'm free-floating in a world from which escape is extremely difficult; or was until the advent of global satellite phones. The Arctic landscape hasn't changed since I first saw it two decades ago; shoreline sedges, dense willow, a mosaic of green tundra, rippling and shimmering away toward hills dappled with the shadows of cumulus clouds; but I have to admit that the country's old edginess is gone. The mixture of genuine fear at being alone in the vastness of the high latitudes, and the lovely tension of facing that fear with no resources other than what we've brought along and the wit inspired by necessity, is diminished. The air taxi service's telephone number is programmed into Len's satphone and is no more than the push of a memory button away. The entire rescue services of North America would then be at our disposal, down to a huge, twin-rotor helicopter that can navigate through fog and find us by Global Positioning System coordinates. Len, leaving nothing to chance, has also accepted the offer of a handheld GPS from his law partner; a device that, with another push of a button, tells you your! latitude and longitude, bouncing its signal from satellites circling overhead. All this technology doesn't mean that we'll be less careful. Getting pinned in a rapid with your head underwater takes only a few seconds of inattention, and then all the satphones and GPSs in the world won't do you a bit of good. Nevertheless, the phone has given us a newfound cushion and is extinguishing an awareness that's always been part of these trips, what I like to think of as slipping through the world's harshness by a mixture of skill and divine grace.

Ted Kerasote is a regular contributor to "Outside," "Audubon", and other magazines and is the author of several books. He has participated in and led many backcountry trips, including mountaineering, desert and jungle crossings, skiing, dog sledding, river descents by canoe and kayak, and ocean sea kayaking. These trips have taken place all over the globe.

Great book but way too short; it is only 160 pages and it is a small book, not very many words on a page, unlike Merle's Door and Pukka's Promise which are both 360 plus pages and a larger format (bigger pages). Finished it in under 3 hours. Ted Kerasote is a great writer and his descriptions of events and animals and places are delightful, but this book left me wanting more even though the

trip he was describing was only two weeks long.

Good read

Let me start by saying that I am a huge fan of Ted Kerasote. This is a short book about his experience out on the Horton River with his friend who brings a remote phone. I felt like I was out there with him experiencing the beauty and surprises along the way. Ted has a great writing style that allows his readers to laugh along with him and also feel his uneasiness when talking on the remote phone while he is out in the wild. Returning back to civilization was hard and I felt disappointed that the trip ended but I believe that was the point, to know the actual difference. I would also highly recommend any of his other books especially *Merle's Door*. It is truly my favorite. Also, Ted has a couple books coming out in 2010 and I can hardly wait. He is personable, knowledgeable, and a gentle spirit that offers his wonderful perspective so that we may explore and learn to be in harmony with nature.

A voracious reader I discovered Ted Kerasote through the now legendary eyes of his dog Merle in *MERLE'S DOOR* in July of 2007. Easily bored, I have never read any book more than once but must confess in 1 1/2 years I have read *Merle* 4 times.....and I know I will read it again one day. *OUT THERE* was Ted Kerasote living my husband's fantasy and I finding myself wanting to experience the same adventure. Ted Kerasote unzips himself down the middle and bares his feelings in his writing from the depths of his soul. It is magical. He is easily the best author writing today and anyone who misses any of his books has missed a part of a life most of only dream about. All of Ted Kerasote's books are must reads.

Kerasote has a way with words that transcends simply being informative to actually entertaining his reader. He is not afraid to look inside his own skull and poke around in there exploring the little nooks and crannies that many folks would not expose to the light of day. In that approach he gives the reader keen insight into what makes him tick. And those impulses turn out to be present in our own minds also. He makes us see how being unique does not prevent us from being an integral part of the larger picture as well.

If you enjoy Ted Kerasote for *Merle's Door* and *Pukka*, the Pup after Merle, you may think he writes mainly about his experiences with dogs. However, his ability to transport you to the Northern reaches

of this continent is very real. He takes you on a canoe trip through the wilds of the Canadian Northwest Territories along the Horton River. This book will hold your interest and stir your enthusiasm for traveling in the wild. He provides verbal glimpses of wildlife along the way, as well as trials and joys inherent in such a trip. If you are intrigued by travel in rough, you will love this book.

As an elderly female I have never been a "real" outdoors person. Hate camping, never downhill skied. So why do I love to read the books of Mr. K? Because he is one of the most lyrical writers I know of. He can make the most mundane activity interesting. And his ruminations on life and living are priceless. To say nothing of all that one can learn from him. I hope it is an typo that they have the hardcover priced at \$99. Don't think many would sell at that price.

A thought-provoking book; everyone who is reliant on today's technology should read this one. It made me want to go "off the grid" immediately. Kerasote is an excellent writer whose descriptions are so vivid that you feel as though you are there with him. This book is a short and pleasant read.

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