

Where's the Next Shelter?

Gary Sizer

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Where's the Next Shelter? is the true story of three travelers on the Appalachian Trail, a two thousand mile hike that stretches from Georgia to Maine, told from the perspective of Gary Sizer, a seasoned backpacker and former Marine who quickly finds himself humbled by the endeavor. He teams up with Megan, a sassy college grad whose indomitable spirit eclipses her lack of experience, and Lemmy, a cartoonist from overseas whose off-kilter commentary on the wonders and frustrations of the trail keeps everyone laughing.

Sprawling through the woods and towns of the Appalachian mountains, the trail carries the trio through real and fanciful ups and downs ranging from hilarious to perilous. Much more than an orderly account of mountain tops and meals, it is an adventure about friends figuring things out as they go. It's about screw-ups and solutions, awe and inspiration.

If you long for the horizon, or to sleep under the stars, then come along for the hike of a lifetime. All you have to do is take the first step.

Where's the Next Shelter? Details


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From Reader Review Where's the Next Shelter? for online ebook

Tess Ailshire says

I've read half a dozen or more memoirs of AT thru-hikers. This was certainly among the most enjoyable, primarily due to the author's perspective. He maintains a positive outlook throughout, not letting anything get to him. Perhaps that's the mark of a true hiker. Others, even if they don't seem to be complaining, spend much more time on the rocks of Pennsylvania, the difficulties of the Whites, the tedium of heat, rain, or cold. Sizer seldom mentions difficulties except in passing. Even in facing situations that would have made others give up (for now!), he dwells only on the positive.

So this narrative reminded me more than any other I've read that the people of the trail are as different as the people of the world.

Brian McKinnon says

Outstanding! Probably the best AT book I have read.

Fritzov says

You really get the feeling you are out on the trail when reading this book

Lorraina says

Want to take a long walk?

Great book about the Appalachian Trail! Thank you Gary for your account! Great read! ? Hopefully I will be able to go one day

Meagan says

I was lucky enough to be surfing Reddit on the day Gary Sizer was holding an AMA and promoting his second book, Home is Forward. Consequently, I snagged Where is the Next Shelter for the low, low price of nothing. Thanks for that, Gary.

This book made me want to hike the AT, and considering I don't do cold, hate going without a shower and pretty much despise bugs, that's about the highest praise I can give it. It actually made me want to hit the trail and have someone give me a name. A fun, funny and sometimes nerve-wracking tale of the trail, definitely worth the read. Don't expect Wild (which was so damn boring I couldn't even finish it) but do expect fun.

Lustfulcat says

By far the best book I've read about the Appalachian Trail. Green Giant had just the right amount of sarcasm and his viewpoint was hilarious. I felt like I was walking right alongside him and his cast of characters. I admit when I saw the author picture he did look familiar and when I reached the end of the book I knew why :D I'd recommend this to anyone who wants a real look at what it's like to thru-hike. I wish I could've hiked with him!

Charlie White says

This is an outstanding book. I felt like I was on this epic adventure myself, with the author walking right behind me the whole way. Not only does he offer lush descriptions of the breathtaking scenery and natural beauty of the mountains and forest, but he shows his keen insight into the people he visited who live along the trail, inhabitants of the various regions traversed by the 2,180-mile hike. He does such an exquisite job of describing and quoting his fellow hikers -- quirky characters from all over the world -- that I feel like I personally got to know each one.

The sheer enormity of climbing up and down near-vertical trails, fighting a variety of bugs that are microscopic, six-legged and eight-legged, scrambling over bus-sized rocks and dealing with the hardships of wilderness camping come to life in this awesome adventure. It's an honest, frank, gritty and often hilarious account, and it's so compelling, it's tempting me to drop everything and attempt a through hike of the Appalachian Trail myself.

I just hope I have the stamina and determination Gary Sizer has. As he makes clear, this is no walk in the park, and it's just as much a mental battle as it is a physical challenge. But this book is not a complain-fest of hardships and woe. No, it's a joyful and uplifting account of the voyage of a lifetime.

It's such a pleasurable read, I wanted it to go on and on. This is quite a treat -- highly recommended!

Don says

I keep saying I do not want to do a Thru-Hike of the Appalachian Trail and then I read this book! What a truly epic adventure!!! The author, Gary Sizer, leaves nothing out as far as the obstacles he optimistically, even joyfully faced....as one of his trail mates mantra proclaimed in the toughest of times "I am grateful for today, I am grateful for today, I am.....". He does a great job detailing the beauty he sees on the hike, the quirky characters from all over the world that he hikes with, and the hardships he faced along the way. If you are a dreamer, an adventurer, and a lover of nature and the outdoors, then I highly recommend this book to you!

Ronnie Hull says

If you don't laugh reading this book, you need to drink more! Gary has a very unique sense of humor! I wasn't long into this book before I felt like I was part of his trail family! I felt his pain in the Shenandoah's, his joy when he reunited with friends on the trail. And more than anything else, it has fueled my own desire to follow the white blazes! I start next March. Thanks Gary! Maybe I'll run into you on some forlorn piece of trail someday!

Ronnie Hull - Shreveport, La

Christopher says

Inspiring without being sentimental or preachy. Mostly, wrenching pain and tedium punctuated by moments of beauty and friendship.

I liked Sizer's advice to fellow hiker: "I like to think of this as something I have already done... It's a trick I did in boot camp to pass the time. That place was constantly miserable, so I pretended it was already over and that everything happening around me in the present was actually just me remembering it."

Karen says

Loved Where's the Next Shelter! It has all the fun of long distance hiking, but no intense interpersonal drama (unlike Wild). A fun and interesting read. Recommended.

Mike Williams says

I had put off listening to this audio book because of the goofy accent for one of the characters in the sample. It was a bad choice by Amazon to use that sample. This is a fantastic AT Thru-Hike story. I enjoyed it more than I expected and I was sad when it ended. Gary is a good person, who I can relate with in some ways and respect for our differences in others. His story telling abilities are excellent. I caught myself excited to drive to work to hear more of the story each day. I have listened to countless hiking stories about the AT and other long distance trails and this one is one of the best. I rarely ever purchase an audio book by the same author back to back but as soon as I finished this, I bought Gary's latest, Home Is Forward: Hiking and Travel Adventures from Around the World by Gary Sizer. If it's half as good as Where's the Next Shelter?, it will be great.

Travis Michaels says

I'm amazed at how Gary Sizer puts the reader inside his own head. You fall in love with his friends, you stub YOUR toe, you laugh, you cry, you succeed. After reading this book, I feel as though Gary is my best friend

and I'm on to the next journey along with him. If you love nature, life, and adventure you'll love this story. If the thought of quitting your job and hitting the trail does not enter your mind, you're not paying attention. I highly recommend this book.

Shelly♥ says

I'm an AT Memoir junkie, although I think it's been a couple of years since I have read one. Skip Bill Bryson and get into the real memoirs, like this one. Gary Sizer quits his job to hike the AT with the support of his wife. His social experiences and challenges of the trail are unique, amusing and sometimes heartbreaking. You find yourself on the trail with him, and cheering for his success every step of the way. Loved his cast of hiker buddies as well. The audio book was read by the author, which made it even more personal, I think. Add this one to your "Want to Read" list.

Don says

I've read a lot of trail memoirs, and always look forward to another one. However, about 20% through the book I had to drop it. There was a significant amount of foul language, and it seemed impossible to go more than a few minutes without it. The book also included references to smoking joints on the trail as if that's a normal thing to do. This, combined with a story line that was not all that interesting, finally hit a point where I could not continue it.
