



The Wilds

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Ned Champion has just been dumped by his girlfriend, Cora. But that's no reason to cancel his backpacking trip into the Lost River Wilderness Area.

He'll just go without her.

And he'll keep a journal of his adventures.

He's bound to have a fine time.

Alone in the wilds.

Completely on his own.

Absolutely free to do whatever he wishes.

Anything at all.

With nobody there to watch him or criticize him or hold him back - or arrest him.

It'll just be Ned in the wilds.

And the Wilds in Ned.

The Wilds Details

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Author : Richard Laymon

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From Reader Review The Wilds for online ebook

Demonika says

This was a bonus Novella that came with my copy of Friday Night in Beast House. I'm so glad it did because I probably never would have read it otherwise. I read it while camping too! I really loved it and could relate 100% - it's a fine line sometimes. Who doesn't want to just run off into the woods and live Wild?

Nicole says

I don't even know what to think, that got drastic... and fast. Besides 'what happened' I like the ending. Once 'that' started happening I was so headed downhill (like-wise) but that ending sold me. The story was a little fucked up, but overall I like it.

Trevor Firetug says

Loved the build up. A perfect slow burn without being boring. Parts of the story reminded me of Laymon's novel, Night In the Lonesome October. I have a feeling that if you enjoyed that novel (I did!) you will enjoy this too.

Highly recommended.

John says

Richard Laymon's writing generally walks a razor-thin line between grotesquely playful and flat-out stupid. And while the majority of THE WILDS is masterfully entertaining, the jaw-droppingly absurd plot twists eventually derail what was otherwise a good story. Laymon has no talent for character development, so the sudden veering into psychotic homicidal aggression seemingly comes out of nowhere. I get that Laymon threw it in there to give readers a good shock, but what is the fun in being surprised by something that makes no sense? Laymon then doubles down on the plot's stupidity by adding yet another unbelievable twist, one that retroactively softens (undermines?) the impact of the horrors committed earlier. I'm not sure whether adding another layer of schlock serves to make the story better or worse, but, either way, it's not enough to redeem it. Too bad, because I quite enjoyed the first 2/3rds or so. For that duration, it reminded me a bit of the part in Alex Garland's THE BEACH in which the main character spends too much time in the woods and starts to go crazy by imagining himself to be living inside a video game.

There are a lot of different directions in which a story like THE WILDS can go. Unfortunately, Laymon selected one of the lamest and least believable ones.

Fuzzydice108 says

This bonus novella is included with the book "Friday Night in Beast House". I thought this one was interesting.

A ten day peaceful hike through the wilderness can accidentally turn even the most sane and understanding person into a serial murderer.

Carrie says

Short...it was a second story in the book, Friday Night in Beast House. It was not as action packed as most Richard Laymon books. The end was pretty funny, but that is the only part I really liked...

OK says

I thought it was great although there was practically no character development, which kind of worked since the character was in a constant state of 'transformation.'

Pat Dreadful says

The Wilds is a strange trip. It is scary and brutal but, in some bizarre way, at its core it is a love story. A love story between man and nature, but also a love story between man and woman- two beings finding their perfect mate despite being insanely flawed.

Nick says

The first Laymon book I ever read was "Dark Mountain" and since then I have always greatly enjoyed his camping stories. This short piece is no exception. Told in journal entries by the main character as he camps alone in the mountains, spying on other campers and going a little mad, it's an entertaining read one can polish off in one or two sittings. The little twist at the end is nice too.

Adamus says

I really enjoyed this novella. It was a little different at first, but all his books that happen in the woods are usually great. This was a great fast read & the type of horror was different from normal Laymon reads. It was cool to see how a kid like that when first was scared & depressed to go on the trip turn into something totally different. I couldn't stop flipping through the pages to see what happened was waiting for a serial killer or a wild man to pop out, but instead a great twist!! I also liked how he wrote it as he was doing a journal it was pretty neat. I wish it was longer definitely would of been a book, but so far definitely my favorite novella from Laymon!! Highly recommend to horror fans!!

Tom Stretton says

A quick, typically sick and raw Laymon gem.

I've read quite a few of Richard Laymon's books over the years and I've always enjoyed them. They have a raw, close to the bone feel to them that kind of makes you feel a little bit dirty just reading them and this one is no different at all on that front.

The Wilds is written in the form of a diary (an angle used by Laymon before) by a young man named Ned Champion. Ned is going on a one man adventure in the Sierra mountain range in Nevada. Ned has prepared for his adventure with 10 days worth of food but has not counted on the affect being alone in the wilderness would have on his mental state. Laymon brilliantly describes the characters demise in this un-put-down-able novella in a hair raising and disturbing way that only the late great Richard Laymon could. If you're a fan of shock horror thrillers then read this!!

Adam Light says

I am not sure if this came out before Island or not, but it seems like a prototype for that novel. Like Island, this novella is written in journal entry style by a young guy on the brink of a transformation.

I enjoyed this quick read, but I don't think it is necessary reading for Laymon fans. Check out Island, though. That one was a real stunner.

Vicki Willis says

Wow... short story about a guy going backpacking alone in the woods. He keeps a journal which documents his time. Another crazy, lunatic character for Laymon. This one had a surprise ending that I never saw coming. A quick, fun read.
