

## **CILIPS COVID-19 Book Reviews – Into the Wild**

**Reviewer name:** Elizabeth Carney

**Book title:** Into the Wild

**Author name:** Jon Krakauer

**Genre:** Biography/New Journalism

**Overall Rating:** Excellent

**Brief summary:** Into the Wild tells the true story of Christopher McCandless (aka Alexander (Alex) Supertramp), a young man from California who sought a nomadic, self-reliant lifestyle, free from the ties of society.

After graduating from university, Chris leaves his family and the majority of his possessions behind and donates all of his savings to charity. He changes his name and sets off on a journey across America, moving constantly and never allowing himself to get too attached to a place or the people he meets along the way. Eventually, he hitchhikes to Alaska where he walks 'into the wild' alone and with very minimal supplies, intending to live off of the land.

**What you liked:** It is easy to love Chris. He is the ultimate free-spirit and outdoor enthusiast and reading about his adventures is both exciting and frustrating. His life is so incredible sometimes it is easy to forget this book is non-fiction. Jon Krakauer, with help from the people who met him on his journey across America, tells Christopher's story very carefully and in a way that really makes you understand and appreciate why he wanted to live the way he did. Completely entranced by Chris's story, I quite simply could not put this book down.

Krakauer is an excellent writer and one of the best things about the book is how he tries to make sense of Christopher and his choices. Doing so leads him to write about his own life and the ways in which he can see himself in Chris. We also get insight into how Christopher's choices affected the people around him like his family who he left behind and those new friends who he met on his travels who grew to love him but then lost him quickly after. There is a lot of heartbreak. All these perspectives give the book great depth and help the reader to get a sense of Christopher's mindset as his journey progressed.

**Who should read this book?:** Anybody who is interested in adventure and travel might like this book. It might also be enjoyed by anybody who is interested in reading about the lives of other people.

**Any additional comments?:** The book and the stories told in it are gripping and make it a real page-turner. However, beware that some of the content is difficult to read. As well as being inspiring and exciting, it is also haunting. The book will make you emotional in all different types of ways. It is intended for adult readers.

Also, the film version of the book is a brilliant watch and I would highly recommend watching Into The Wild as well as reading it.