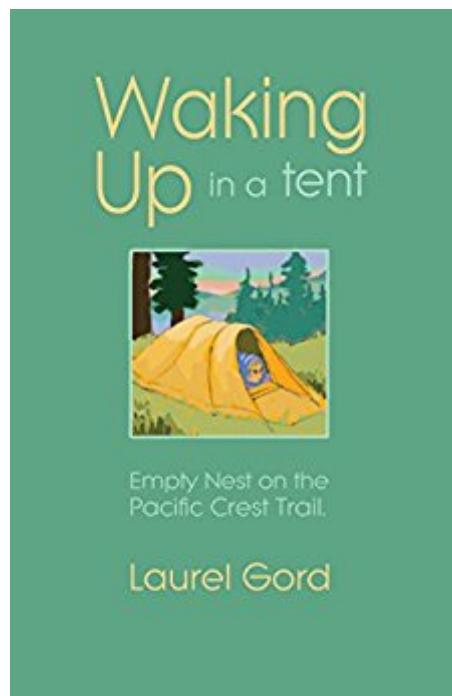




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# **Waking Up In A Tent: Empty Nest On The Pacific Crest Trail**



## Synopsis

A sixty-something woman with fear of heights and creaky knees decides to spend two months backpacking the High Sierra. What could possibly go wrong? “What was I thinking? In that moment of madness, I completely forgot that I’m a total wuss, terrified of heights. In my defense, it doesn’t come up much in my city life, although I do need to practice meditative deep breathing on freeway overpasses.” So swept along by the enthusiasm of her usually very predictable husband, a newly retired engineer, Laurel agrees to leave her overly busy life behind, let go of her worries about her grown children, and spend two months hiking the Pacific Crest Trail. She hopes the shared adventure will bring added intimacy to her odd-couple marriage and that time in nature will support her spiritual growth, or at least help her talk some sense into her rampaging inner critic. Despite paralyzing fear, sickness, injury, and hail, the majestic grandeur of the High Sierra did work some kind of miracle. “I picked up *Waking up in a Tent*, planning to spend a few minutes looking it over. Before I knew it, two hours had flown by and I was halfway through the book. Much of the book’s charm comes from Laurel’s determination to bring a spiritual perspective to hardships on the trail and friction with her husband. It’s not only a great read, but an education in how to maintain a rewarding marriage.” • Carolyn Godschild Miller, Ph.D. author of *Creating Miracles, A Practical Guide to Divine Intervention* “I’ve never been backpacking, but I felt I was there on the trail with Laurel and John, marveling at the beauty around me. Although Laurel struggles, she never takes herself too seriously, and that’s where the humor comes in. I laughed out loud at the depictions of her inner dialogue.” • Joan Bell

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Okay, so I have been itching to write this review since Chapter 2. I am from Louisiana and I have never been west of Dallas, TX. I found the characters in this book to be typical liberal Californian hippies and often scoffed at the lines I would read. It is just a different world on that side of the nation and while I disagree with the way of thinking 'out west', I can't help but relate to the human emotions. I really enjoyed this book. I hope there is a second installment. I enjoyed seeing an opposing perspective on issues that we all face and growing to respect the opinion while genuinely disagreeing with it. Good read.

Waking Up in a Tent is a love story about a long term marriage, as well as an adventure book. I've never been backpacking, but I felt I was there on the trail with Laurel and John, marveling at the beauty around me. Although Laurel struggles, she never takes herself too seriously, and that's where the humor comes in. I laughed out loud at the depictions of her inner dialogue.

This is a charming account of a couple of a certain age hitting the Pacific Crest Trail. Gord's descriptions of the landscape are exquisite. Her accounts of her physical injuries and misadventures are by turns humorous and poignant. Added to this are her interior monologues that connect her present experiences with lingering baggage and threaten to undermine her sense of joy and achievement. All is all, a wonderful tale of a momentous journey..

This book is a delight: it's fun, humble and so much of the time, a quirky version of an extended love affair with a husband, the Pacific Coast Trail (and its complex beauty and brutality) and especially a love affair with the Trail's characters like the Happy Hiker, Cool Cat, Independence Day, Ten-Four, Train Monkey, Sure Food and finally, at the end of the book,

with Sky Blue (the narrator's trail name) and her husband, Farmer John. This lovely and tough-minded rendering of a back-packing journey along the Pacific Coast Trail celebrates hailstorms, lovely Alpine meadows with terrible mosquitos and black flies, alpine sickness, burning urine, 13,135 foot passes and views that are nectar of the gods. Buy it and be delighted.

I wanted to read an exciting story of backpacking but this author put her childhood memories, her and her husband's kisses, their intimate time in the tent. It seems she was crowding 3 books into one. My son walks these trails so that is my interest. Not her love life etc. I am so glad I reached the end. I learned very little about backpacking. As I do with other similar tales.

Waking Up in a Tent is so much more than a backpacking adventure. It is, in more than one way, a journey. It's about finding strength. "This ankle is not bad enough to call in a rescue party, so I'm just going to have to walk on it." The author, Laurel Gord (self-described as "A child of the sixties"), invites you into her life, with such a warm voice and an endearing openness that you feel as if you were traveling with her, witnessing the loving relationship with her husband, listening to her most intimate thoughts, and getting a glimpse, here and there, of how they met back in the sixties. Between one physical challenge and another along the trail, she gives you a sense of marvel with the beauty of nature. Highly recommended. Five Stars.

"Waking up in a Tent" is a delightful, well-written tale of a woman confronting and overcoming the physical and emotional challenges of hiking the Pacific Crest trail. This passionate story of love, friendship and survival is beautifully written. I read it twice.

An engrossing tale of everyday courage. The kind of courage we all need to survive our lives. Told with humor, gratitude, humility and passion for nature. No we can't give up or go back we are on the trail with those we love. If we have to crawl to get past the obstacles, then we crawl but we keep moving, still we arrive, if not to the end of the trail at least to the furthest we could go. It's worth the effort.

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