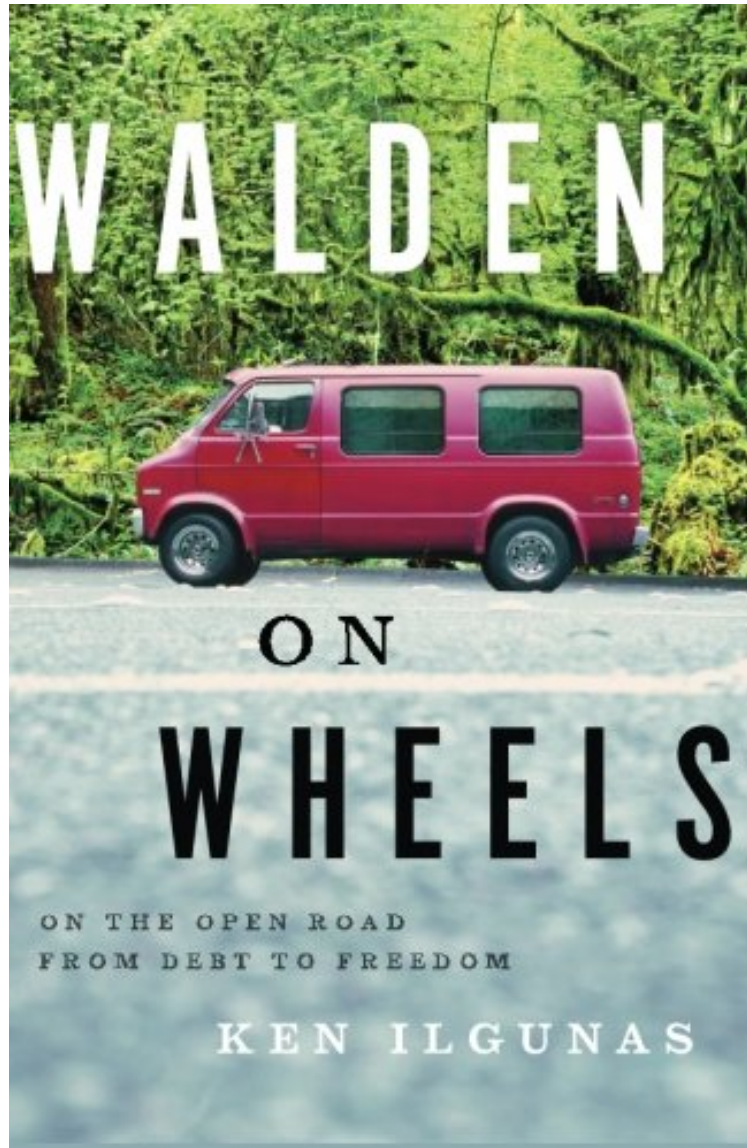


[Ebook pdf] Walden on Wheels: On The Open Road from Debt to Freedom

## Walden on Wheels: On The Open Road from Debt to Freedom

*Ken Ilgunas*

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**Ken Ilgunas : Walden on Wheels: On The Open Road from Debt to Freedom** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Walden on Wheels: On The Open Road from Debt to Freedom:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. and in 2012 I moved to Alaska to put myself in a better financial position By PFisherI related with Ilgunas when I read this book. I have lived the last 12 years submerged in student debt. Ilgunas is from western New York, and I'm from north western Pennsylvania. Ilgunas accepted seasonable

employment in Alaska to free himself of debt, and in 2012 I moved to Alaska to put myself in a better financial position. I emailed Ilgunas after I completed reading the book, and surprisingly he quickly emailed me back and was very encouraging. It is now April 2015. I am at a point where I can work remotely for my job, and I'm ready to relocate from Alaska to the Lower 48. Just yesterday I purchased my own van, and will be converting the van to a mini camper as I embark on my next chapter in life, a chapter largely influenced by Ilgunas and this book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Insightful

By RockinrobnI not only learned about the author's journey; I also looked inside myself saw more than meets the eye. Even my eyes. I've had hardships like everyone else, and I have always thought that if we learn from our mistakes, than it wasn't a complete waste of time. I look back on my childhood born in the U.S., but raised in the wilds of Canada. I had adventures practically every day. My dogs I had great times. I learned at an early age, unfortunately, or fortunately (depending on how you look at it), that I can always trust my animals. The unconditional love that I have never found in a human being. Now almost 50, gosh I don't feel THAT old, I still depend on my animals. Horses are very misunderstood animals. They grieve their dead forever; longer than most humans. I've heard elephants do too. Horses have every feeling and emotion that humans do. I recently lost one of my best horse friends. A huge piece of my heart is buried in that hole with her. After waiting a year, I will never forget the day that she gave herself to me, mind, body, soul, love, respect and trust. I will always be indebted to my children for making me smile and laugh. I wear those new wrinkles with pride. Didn't have them before the day they were born. Yes, all 3 were born on the same day. My kids and I have endured many hardships, but have come through them all stronger, better people for it. We have a special bond. Finally, finally I have unconditional love from at least 3 human beings. I haven't been as lucky as Ken. It seems he feels kindness wherever he went. Maybe because he believed he would find it still left in humans. I used to be more of an optimist, thinking there was good in every single person I met. I was quite shocked to grow up learn that kindness is difficult to find. I have believed for a long time now that the reason I can't find the people I am looking for is simply because they do not exist in the particular State I currently live in. Yes, I've been back in the U.S. for my adult life. Before I was married, had children, then a divorce; I would take off with my dog, my camping gear and my truck. I'd yell, "Road Trip." I slept in some places that made my friends cringe. I also saw the open road and was very glad to be back in nature, where I found solace as a child. Maybe not a smart thing for a young woman to do. But my dog, who loved people, was scary looking and big. She was also extremely protective of me. Also a great judge of character. I followed her lead. She knew people better than I did. As for Canada, you haven't lived until you have dragged your 2 dogs away from the tree where that bear cub was crying for it's mama. I could tell by his fur which of 'our' bears was his mama. She was beautiful, but twice as big as most of our bears. Thank you adrenaline. Each dog weighed more or as much as I did. When we got back to the road, I promptly lost my cookies. However, it is one of many stories of my adventures growing up in Canada. My children still can't fathom my childhood, but at least they believe me now. This book hit me in so many ways. I love words and this author provided a plethora of words and put them together in such a way I can only dream of doing. This author changed my life. I remembered that I have to slow down again, and smell the proverbial flowers. This book made me want to yell "Road Trip!!" and pack up dogs, cats, rabbits, horses and children and go back to the way I was. Well, there's school. The fact that I don't have a horse trailer, and my truck is sitting there with a broken transmission. On my bucket list is camping with my horses and children. Unfortunately, a surgeon ruined my foot leg, which in turn exacerbated my back injury, and now I have some strange bone swelling growing on my other foot. I realized I put too much weight on my other leg, and it doesn't like it much. I'm truly afraid that my road trips are a thing of the past. However, nobody can take away those wonderful memories. It is really sad to see people so into their own lives that they no longer have time for others. I think I am living in a selfish State. A State dependent on the internet and other luxuries. A people who want what they want, and they want it NOW. Bigger, better, faster. NOW NOW NOW!! I would recommend this book to anyone everyone, however, I'm afraid not all people would 'get' it. Thank you Ken for sharing your life, journey and adventures, especially with those of us confined to just reading about it. Thank you for making me remember who I really am.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Let's Take a Ride

By Tony S. The concept was great, in the sense that he had a goal and came up with an alternative solution to the problem. He lived a nomadic experience that he believed would enrich his life and allow him to pay off his student loan. Then he yearned for the comfort of the academic environment and mental stimulation that can be found on America's campuses (but also in any coffee shop in America, if you so wish to strike up a conversation). There was some writing that felt forced or sloppy but I chalked that up to the immaturity of the character (the author at that stage in his life) for saying some of the things that he said. But overall, it was a good read, flowed nicely. I love reading about different lifestyle choices and alternative methods of sustainment that do not focus on the evils of the world and how money corrupts. It is the character of the individual that corrupts when introduced with money.

In this frank and witty memoir, Ken Ilgunas lays bare the existential terror of graduating from the University of Buffalo with \$32,000 of student debt. Ilgunas set himself an ambitious mission: get out of debt as quickly as possible. Inspired by the frugality and philosophy of Henry David Thoreau, Ilgunas undertook a 3-year transcontinental journey,

working in Alaska as a tour guide, garbage picker, and night cook to pay off his student loans before hitchhiking home to New York. Debt-free, Ilgunas then enrolled in a masters program at Duke University, determined not to borrow against his future again. He used the last of his savings to buy himself a used Econoline van and outfitted it as his new dorm. The van, stationed in a campus parking lot, would be more than an adventure it would be his very own Walden on Wheels. Freezing winters, near-discovery by campus police, and the constant challenge of living in a confined space would test Ilgunas limits and resolve in the two years that followed. What had begun as a simple mission would become an enlightening and life-changing social experiment. Walden on Wheels offers a spirited and pointed perspective on the dilemma faced by those who seek an education but who also want to, as Thoreau wrote, live deep and suck out all the marrow of life.