



## Simple Joys

### Description

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Sometimes a simple joy can be **a little discovery about myself**. I came across a recipe in a magazine for pork chops and pineapple and cilantro rice. I love cilantro and I thought the combination of pineapple and cilantro sounded good. I'm not very creative when it comes to cooking and putting different flavors together. I'm a recipe follower and unlike other rules, I typically follow them when it comes to recipes. I decided to try the rice this week and even though I ripped the recipe out of the

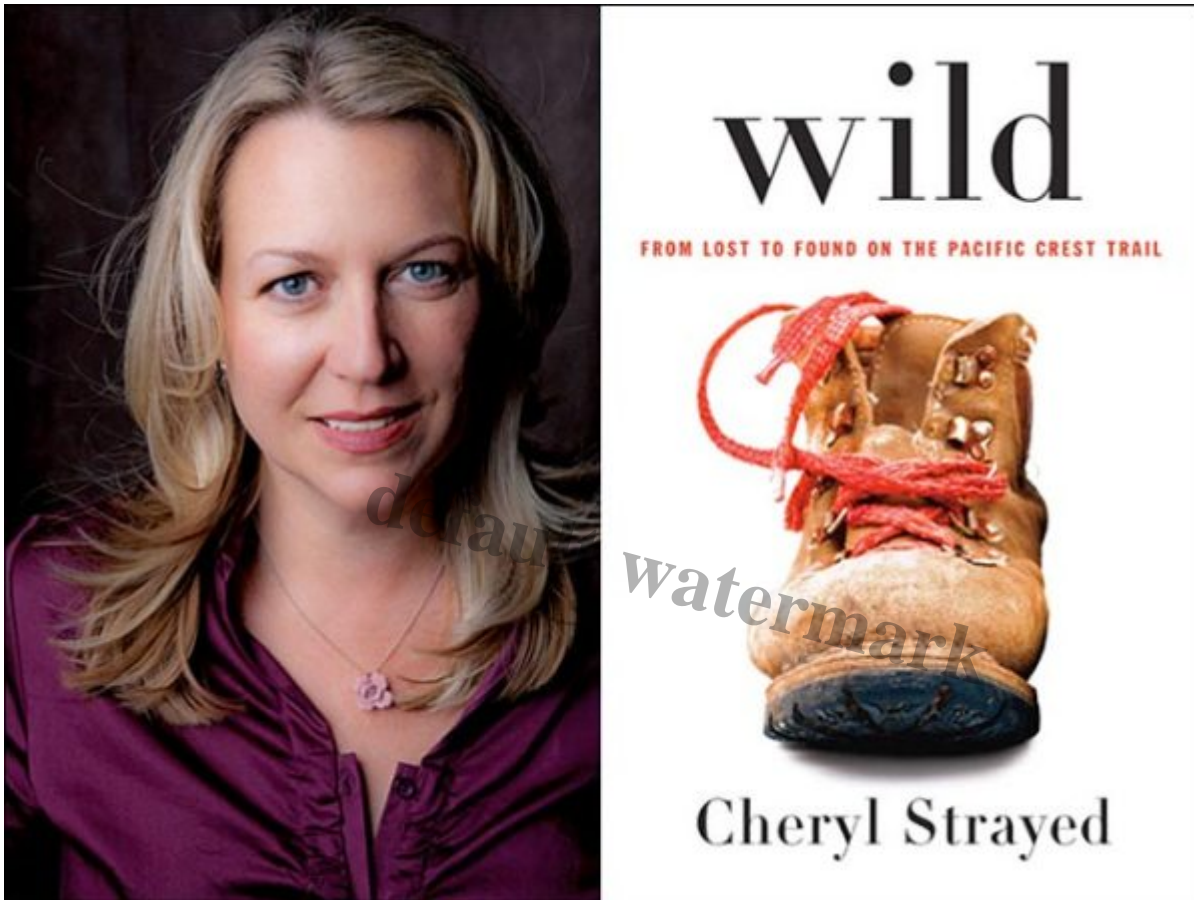
magazine, I decided to wing it. I know your thinking, sheâ€™s really brave. How hard could it be? I boiled some Uncle Benâ€™s white rice according to the package instructions, added half a can of crushed pineapple (drained) and some chopped cilantro. Of course my kids didnâ€™t touch it, but my husband and I loved it. I learned I can be more daring and take chances when it comes to cooking. If it doesnâ€™t work out thereâ€™s always McDonaldâ€™s down the street.

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I love the **fountain drinks at Quick Trip**. I love their crushed ice and their selection of soft drinks and teas. I donâ€™t go there very often, but I was driving past one from a doctorâ€™s appointment I thought I had. It turns out the appointment was from last year and I inadvertently recorded it on this yearâ€™s calendar as well. Instead of bemoaning the fact I wasted 20 minutes of my time, I found joy in stopping at Quick Trip to get an iced tea. Not just any old iced tea, but Pineapple Papaya Iced Tea

with the best crushed ice ever.



Iâ€™m **reading** the book *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed and any chance I can get to read it is a simple joy. Iâ€™m about 70 percent of the way through it. Itâ€™s a true story of Cherylâ€™s solo hike on the Pacific Crest Trail when she was in her early twenties. I love her style of writing and how she intersperses her experiences on the trail with her life experiences. After reading about her issues with her boots and blistered feet, Iâ€™m almost 99 percent sure I would not have been able to carry on. My mother-in-law read *Wild* and said she felt like she was on the trail with Cheryl the whole time. I canâ€™t wait to finish it! Are you reading a good book?

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