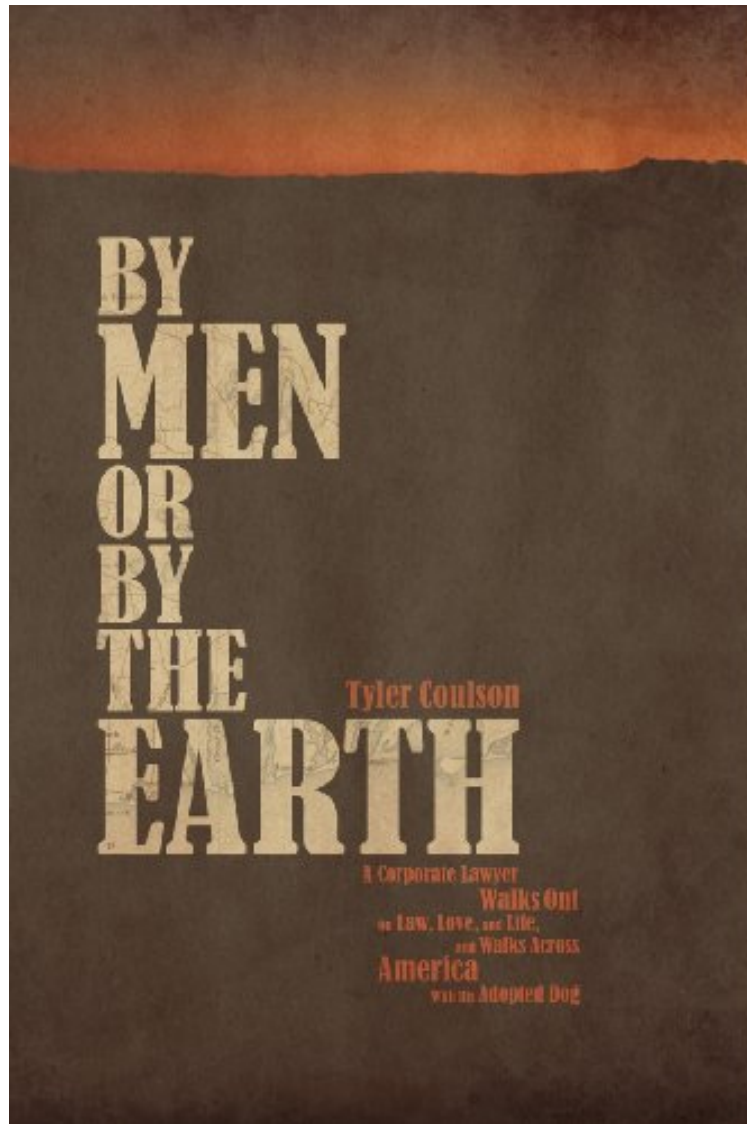


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# By Men or By the Earth: A Corporate Lawyer Walks Out on Law, Love, and Life, and Walks Across America With His Adopted Dog

Tyler Coulson

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Tyler Coulson : **By Men or By the Earth: A Corporate Lawyer Walks Out on Law, Love, and Life, and Walks Across America With His Adopted Dog** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised **By Men or By the Earth: A Corporate Lawyer Walks Out on Law, Love, and Life, and Walks Across America With His Adopted Dog**:

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Surprisingly CompellingBy RobIf you're reading this book hoping to find a diatribe about law firms, lawyers, and corporate America and how terrible everyone else is, you'll be disappointed. Instead, it's a story about a deeply sad and unfulfilled young man, who tried to save his life by doing something grand only to find out that grandiosity doesn't give any more meaning than grinding it out at a desk for 12 hours a day. The book is fascinating because it is so honest and raw. It could very easily have been an Occupy Wall Street rant against corporate America or a crappy Herman Hesse knock off but instead it looks inward at the possibility that Tyler is sad and angry not because he's in a soul-crushing profession, but because he's Tyler. What Tyler finds isn't happy or zen, but it's honest. Siddhartha he is not. He's just another sad kid trying to find himself too late in life and looking in the wrong places. What makes the book so dang good is that he's so honest about his delusions and misconceptions about happiness (and the effects of same) unlike so many other people. This is not the book that I was expecting having read Tyler's blogs, interviews and AbovetheLaw posts. For that I'm thankful. This is an excellent and honest book for everyone who (naively) thinks that happiness is in the next great adventure. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I really enjoyed this book!By CustomerI bought this book (kindle version) on Saturday... and finished it up on Monday night. Basically three books in one! A young attorney becomes disenchanted with "biglaw", he has relationship issues with the girlfriend, and decides to start a most interesting walk across the USA (E to W) with his dog Mabel. The book flashes back and forth from the big walk back to experiences at law school, at the law firm, travels with the girlfriend, and scenes at a tropical beach where the book was written/revised. As someone who used to do a lot of long distance bike rides of 100 - 160 miles (but not across the country!) I could relate, to a limited extent, to the difficulties of the long walk. As the walk starts, he pretty much loses the girlfriend. They have a history of waffling back and forth as to whether they want to be together so you are uncertain as to what will happen. Half way across the country he gets roped in to helping a young woman who is also walking across the country. This naturally leads to a conflict as she is a whiner and manipulator, and someone who doesn't realize the seriousness of the walk and the need for planning when you are out in the middle of nowhere. The stories from law school remind me of my experiences in big pharma. A lot of lofty goals and platitudes as you are hired, but a more than normal amount of corporate shenanigans, oversized egos, outlandish salaries, and turf wars out the wazoo. The stories from the walk itself are just the best! Mabel (the dog) steals the show. You will enjoy this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three in oneBy m. roberstonI am really enjoying this account of Mr. Coulson's coast-to-coast trek. He's got me hugging the guardrail with him and Mabel, sitting out seemingly endless bouts of bad weather with them in their tent, suffering with his trying to pack the perfect backpack, and sighing when a stranger shows them kindness. We are only now walking to the beat of "Ohio" and I can't wait to find time to spend a few more mores on the road with them. As far as the law-school flashbacks and joining him as he recovers and writes in Belize, these sideline stories only add to the fascination.....and give my sore feet time to rest. Great escape material.

Tyler was a young corporate lawyer at a big international firm in Chicago, with a six-figure salary, prestige, and a beautiful girlfriend. He had the life most law students dream of. But then he walked out on all of it and attempted to hike across the United States on foot with a tent, a copy of his grandfathers favorite poem, and the rescue dog he'd just adopted, Mabel. A lot of people thought he was crazy, and some even placed bets on whether he would end up hurt or killed. Tyler and Mabel faced an incredible number of obstacles: mountains, deserts, and prairies, freezing rain, record heat waves, and the most violent tornado season in memory, bears and rattlesnakes and mountain lions, deadly bad drivers, threatened government shutdowns, other cross-country hikers, and student loans. They saw the best and worst of America and of themselves. Their story deeply touched people across America, and many of them people he had never met showed him unimaginable generosity. By Men or By the Earth is the story of how and why Tyler set out to walk across North America, and what he learned along the way. It's about the mistakes he made before, during, and after the Walk. Part memoir, part revelation, part self-criticism, part instruction manual Coulson's account is an honest, sometimes brutally honest, depiction of a flawed man struggling to survive in a flawed system, and of the unshakeable bond between a man and his dog.

About the Author Tyler Coulson was born in rural Illinois and graduated with distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law. He lives in Chicago most of the time with his dog, Mabel.