

## **LOST: Road Trip Home Turns into Story of Survival**

**By Ken Cable**

It was forty years ago. We were heading home down Highway 395 from a camper journey somewhere in the Northwest. My vacation time was running out and getting back to work on time meant some five hundred mile days behind the wheel. On board the camper were my wife, Dorothy, my sons, 13-year-old Mark and 7-year-old Jeff, and my 10-year-old nephew, Stephen.

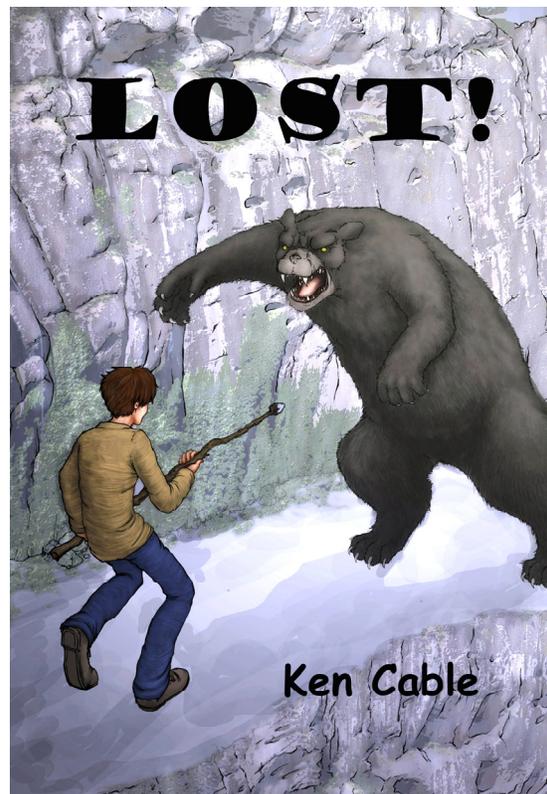
The driver on a trip has much to occupy his mind and reflexes. This is not as easily true for his passengers. The boys were getting restless.

My solution was to pack them into the cab with me from time to time and make up a story. The characters in the story would be the boys. The setting would be the mountains along our route. This immediately appealed to them based on their familiarity with the High Sierras from camping and fishing trips made each summer.

I intended to narrate flashbacks to previous trips – just a few outtakes about our outdoor adventures. Then we met a charter bus on the highway and, instead, I put the boys on the bus on their way to visit a fictional aunt somewhere in the Sierras.

As we rode along the story began to tell itself. Soon it had a life of its own; I found myself anticipating, along with the boys, what would happen next, and looked forward to finding out. By the time we reached home I finished my narrative and the story.

Back in my work routine I discovered that I pretty much remembered the tale; I began taping it during my commute to and from Los Angeles. When I finished,



I transcribed it to a manuscript which I promptly filed away at home where it languished until I rediscovered it a year ago.

I immediately determined to finish the book – and so I did.

**Ken Cable is a nature and travel writer. His new novel “Lost!” about three young boys attempting to survive in the high Sierras during a spring storm can be ordered at [www.readerpublishing.com](http://www.readerpublishing.com). You can contact him at [Ken@readerpublishing.com](mailto:Ken@readerpublishing.com)**