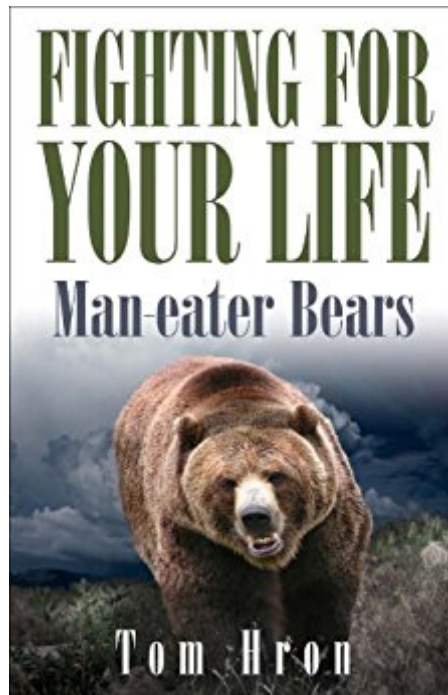




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Fighting For Your Life: Man-eater Bears



Synopsis

Amie Huguenard, the Grizzly Man's girlfriend died a thousand deaths, screaming her head off for Lord knows how long, but surely long enough for her to have escaped instead. Timothy Treadwell had just been dragged into the alders to be eaten alive, but she was a city girl who was clueless when it came to bear safety and how to survive an attack by one. She could have lived if she had only known what to do. An Adventurer, author, and bush pilot, Tom Hron, who's spent a lifetime flying floatplanes and helicopters in Alaska's and Canada's most dangerous bear country, tells about real-life attacks and relates them to survival. He takes on the so-called experts and tells you what NOT to do. Blacks, browns, grizzlies, and polar bears--he covers them all in 240 spell-binding pages, and what you read may save your life.

Book Information

File Size: 2840 KB

Print Length: 243 pages

Publisher: Proman, Inc.; 2 edition (February 26, 2011)

Publication Date: February 26, 2011

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B004PLO8SK

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #91,874 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #11

in Kindle Store > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Bears #80 in Kindle Store >

Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > Nature & Ecology #208 in Kindle Store > Kindle

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Customer Reviews

I liked reading this book. A lot of information contained. I was surprised to learn of bear attacks in the 48 states. You expect Alaska and the Arctic but Utah, Minnesota, New York? I wasn't aware. I think we're more likely to hear about shark attacks than bear. There was also a lot of shared

information about minimizing your chance of encountering a bear during camping, hiking and fishing in bear country as well as many paradigms instilled in us by the media and even park officials that are false about how to respond to a charging bear, why they attack, their level of cunning. Very informative. Author minced no words of his criticism of the misinformation supplied by supposed scientific and animal experts of how bears think, why they attack, how they hunt and what we could learn from various tribes who have lived among the bears for ions.

This is an especially interesting book if you want to learn more about bears and behaviors. The author is informative and weaves exciting tales while educating. This is a must read for campers and adventurers.

I am a fan of author Larry Kanuit, so when I saw that he endorses this bear book by Tom Hron I had to buy it. It is a great read, and has a lot of useful info. Tom does dispel a lot of myths, but I have to take issue with him on only 3 points in this book. First off, he will educate you a proper respect for a bear as a predator, and has some great suggestions on avoiding trouble with bears, so I don't want to suggest at all that this book all wrong or a waste of time. It's actually the best bear book I have found so far. But here are 3 issues I have. First, Tom lived his life in close association with pilots and businesses that flew hunters in to remote Alaska, and acknowledges in this book that bear viewing is now a big business in Alaska, and so when he refers in a sad tone to the loss of a "valuable bear", just don't let that "valuable bear" culture sink in. Your life is valuable and cannot be replaced. The bear can easily be replaced; indeed there are so many bears that hunting seasons are allowed. And besides, they are extremely formidable in all aspects of survival and propagation, and will multiply almost like rabbits if there is enough food. The male grizzly will kill any cub he finds, so the loss of a male means some cubs might live to adulthood to replace the male. So let's keep our priorities straight on the value of human life vs. a bear. Let's stay legal and humane, but alive also, so don't put too much value on a bear is all I'm sayin'. Second, Tom gives an example he witnessed where a nuisance bear was finally stopped from his repeated nightly mischief of trying to break into storage buildings by the application of an electrified fence wire; the bear did not like getting shocked and so let things alone. So Tom recommends that you could consider carrying a shock device the size and shape of a click pen in your shirt pocket and that the brief 500,000 volts would stop a bear attack. But the bear that was deterred by the electric fence was rather casual on his motivation. A charging bear who is after you in a rage or for a quick food kill will not be noticing any stun gun. Examples of motivated bears fighting each other after having ripped each others

entrails out were given by witnesses in at least one of Larry Kanuit's bear books, so I just cannot imagine the bear would notice a stun pen or stop a motivated attack. I have used stun guns on myself out of curiosity, and they do not even slow me down, just annoy me. And in all truth, I had a problem with a huge bully Tom cat in my neighborhood who had the never to come into my garage and beat up my cat. I zapped him with a Nova stun gun and the cat like lightening spun around and clawed me drawing blood. And from what I see on TV they don't seem to stop a motivated criminal either. I realize that stun guns may work on some people, but if they don't work on me then I can't believe they will stop a raging bear. Also, according to the many real life bear attacks presented in Larry Kanuit's 2 bear books, a common bear strategy is to reach out ahead of his arrival on top of you and swat at you. In one of Larry's real life examples, a Kodiak chasing a man from behind decapitated the man from behind by one blow from the bear's big paw as his companions witnessed from a boat just offshore. In other instances on Kodiak island fully grown cattle were killed with one blow from a bear. It appears that they will usually, if not always, take a swing at you as they charge into you. I worked in Alaska as a timber faller on an island that had no brown bears, but was heavily infested with black bears, and I had very regular encounters with them though I never needed to defend my life against one. One morning as I walked out of the bunkhouse headed for the chow hall I suddenly had a black bear lunge for me with a paw swinging at me and a roar and teeth popping, but I also heard the clanging of metal and almost instantly recognized in the near pitch blackness that the bear was contained in a homemade trap made of a short piece of culvert with steel bars that would drop down when he took the bait. He was a repeat nuisance bear that was trapped to haul to the other side of the island for release. That bear sure woke me out of my half asleep condition and without giving me coffee first!! But my lesson learned is the fighting style of the charge, that as the bear lunged for me he was swiping at me with his paw. I think his reach is better than mine, and a big Kodiak would have even more reach on me, and so I would not have confidence that I could zap him with a stun gun before he devastated me with one blow. So I vote down the idea of a stun gun for a lot of reasons. Another reason is it's an electrical device and some bear country, especially Alaska, is humid, so I would not expect the device to have a long life expectancy. And third, I don't recall any examples in Tom's book (or in Larry Kanuit's books) of a bear ever stopping a charge after having been sprayed with pepper spray. No doubt pepper spray has stopped some bears in instances of low motivation, but motivation is the key here, and I know of no highly motivated bears stopped by spray; indeed even a spray of large caliber gun fire won't stop them unless you hit just the right area of the bear, and for more about where to shoot a bear Tom has great advice in this book. Tom gives an example of a famous photographer who was killed by a Kodiak, and the killer

bear was covered with orange pepper spray, but that didn't stop him from making a meal out of the photographer after killing him. I carry the spray with a 30 foot range, but I also don't go into any bear country unless it's legal to pack a gun also, and this author Tom has great advice on bear guns in this book. There are hundreds of instances of good advice in this book, so I still heartily recommend it even though I don't think it is all perfect (but I only disagree with 3 points out of hundreds). This book is heavily interspersed with real life bear attacks, and written by this great "teller" in a spell binding way so I just could not put this book down until I finished it. I heartily recommend it. And if you are intrigued by the many examples and details of real life bear attacks in this book, then I would also recommend the bear books written by author Larry Kanuit. Larry also has a book titled "Danger Stalks The Land", which profiles other real life histories of people who get caught in the various dangers of Alaska besides the bears, many of whom don't survive their ordeal, and should be a must read for anyone going to Alaska. Unfortunately I only find one of Larry's books, "Alaska Bear Tales", for sale on , but if you look up Larry's website you will find a complete offering of his many books. Larry is another author whose books I cannot put down until finished reading.

It is an interesting read, written with a good sense of humor. The author expresses his views on the subject of bears & predation strongly, and without apology. His experience seems to allow him that sense of 'I am right' and the academic and official experts are wrong attitude. He comes across as a bit arrogant, but that is the authors style, and with humor, he does pull it off successfully.

This author presents his book in a no nonsense practical way (with a bit of humor) that makes you really think about the real nature of bears. The fact that they are predators that rank at the top of the foodchain for a reason, and it has nothing to do with cute and cuddly creatures! I own many books on bears by various authors and this one got my attention and held it from beginning to end. Don't read while camping or backpacking in bear country. You will ruin your own trip!

great book. lots of good information to keep yourself safe in the woods. forget everything you think you know about bears and read this book!

Good book lots of info about bears, well written

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