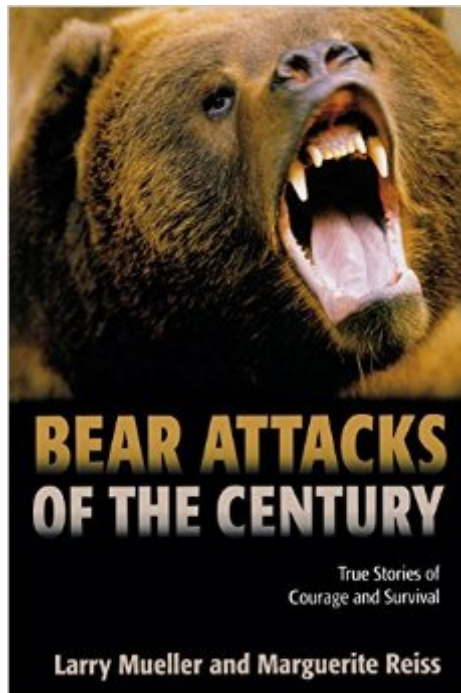


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Bear Attacks Of The Century: True Stories Of Courage And Survival



Synopsis

Do bear attacks touch people in the far-back recesses of their psyches? Reach latent ancestral memories of cave days when humans were potential prey? Indeed, there are those who say their nightmares involved bears before they ever saw one, either in the flesh or in the movies.

Unfortunately, these nightmares all too often come true. People perform almost superhuman feats in their fight to survive bear attacks. Jim Marriott, for instance, was attacked and mauled by a grizzly while carving out a moose head. When playing dead didn't work, he slammed his skinning knife into the attacker's neck. The surprised bear backed off only to charge again, cut his tongue trying to bite at the knife, and got the knife sunk into the same place. By the third charge, Marriott was on his feet despite chewed buttocks and damaged legs. This time the bear left with the knife still sticking in his neck. "In bear attacks, the human survival instinct is extraordinary," says a doctor who sees the terrible punishment victims of bear attacks live through. "And equally amazing are the heroic and seemingly superhuman efforts of those around the victims." • **BEAR ATTACKS OF THE CENTURY** gathers together these stories of courage, chronicling the most horrific encounters between bears and people. With expert advice on avoiding attacks and information that may help both species leave an encounter unscathed, this book is required reading for hikers, hunters, campers, or anyone visiting bear country, and those who want to learn more about these sometimes deadly but always fascinating animals.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"When it's a bear attack, people bend every rule in the book," says Dr. William Wennen, a

trauma/plastic surgeon in Fairbanks, Alaska, who has reconstructed a majority of Alaska's bear attack victims. Wennen is a recurring character -- a just-this-side-of-the-pearly-gates vision in a white coat -- in a graphic collection of true bear attack stories compiled by Illinois outdoor writer Larry Mueller and Marguerite Reiss, who spent many years in Alaska and now resides in Lansing. "Bear Attacks of the Century" certainly bears out Wennen's remark. As these harrowing first-person tales attest, bear attacks provoke exceptional behavior. Heroic friends somehow manage to move mauled victims out of remote areas. Intrepid pilots fly the injured through dangerous storms and mists to the nearest hospital. The victims themselves perform feats of survival they never would have thought possible back home in the La-Z-Boy. In the same spirit, the reader, desperately hooked on these Spillane-terse survival shockers, ignores every rational impulse and keeps turning the pages, driven by sheer adrenaline. In your corner literary salon, "Bear Attacks" readers can always be discerned by their pale complexion, bug eyes, clenched teeth, shifting buttocks and constant shouts of "Oh Jesus!" The beasts in question aren't the cute, bouncing black bears of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, but the 600-pound grizzlies and 900-pound coastal brown bears that inhabit remote areas of Alaska by the thousands. These bears have ruled their world for millennia, feasting on berries, salmon, deer, elk, caribou and whatever else they survey from the summit of the food chain.

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