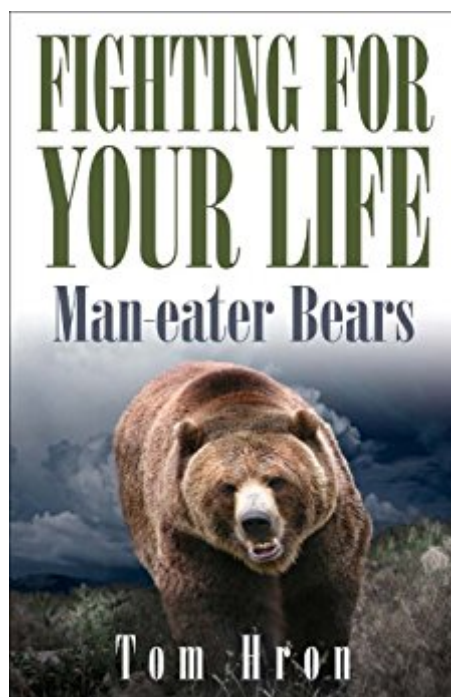


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Fighting For Your Life: Man-eater Bears



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.Â 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

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Customer Reviews

Tom Hron starts his book with the death by bear of Timothy Treadwell and his unfortunate girlfriend. That's appropriate, because in a way, this author is like Treadwell, except the opposite. Treadwell was a nut case who wanted you to see bears as lovable teddies who just needed hugs and kisses. Hron wants you to see yourself as the daily special on every bear's menu, and therefore thinks you

should move through bear country like a SEAL team that has just been inserted into Waziristan. I have lived in black bear country for decades, frequently visit grizzly country, and I think both are nuts. Bears are large, omnivorous, and dangerous predators that need to be respected, and I have never hiked, camped, or hunted in bear country unarmed. In grizzly country, I am never without my trusty .45-70 as well as bear spray. But the idea that any bear will want to eat you "whenever it gets the chance" (according to Hron) is ridiculous. In fact, since bears are large omnivorous predators, the really interesting question that should see a lot more research is why humans generally are not on their menu, considering how easy most of them could be taken. Given the number of black bears we have in our national forests, plus the grizzlies in the national parks, and given the hundreds of thousands of people that descend upon those places every year, many of them small children and idiots without the skills to survive a stroll in a city park, let alone the wilderness, it would be a massacre out there if Hron were right. This author doesn't let any facts get in the way of his wisdom. His evidence is entirely anecdotal. Drawing your own conclusions is perfectly okay, but completely ignoring pretty much all the relevant research of the last several decades doesn't do much for an author's credibility.

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 is 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.

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