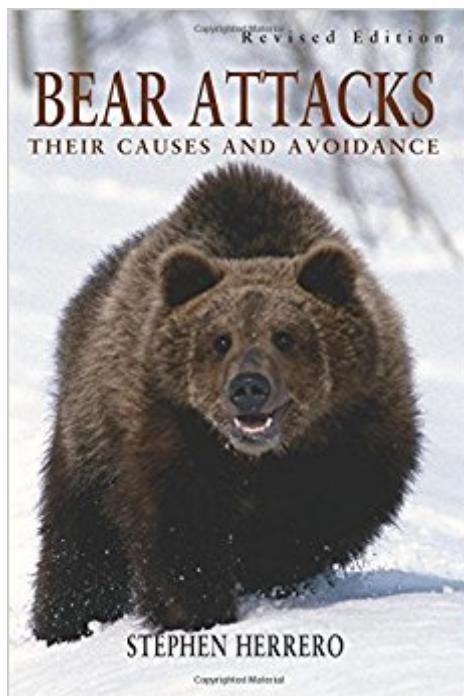


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Bear Attacks: Their Causes And Avoidance (revised Edition)



Synopsis

Of the animals in North America, none commands such dread, awe, and interest as the bear. Creatures that fear little, bears compete for survival with the only other animals that can threaten their existence: Humans. Bear Attacks is a thorough and unflinching study of attacks made on humans. This is the sometimes horrific, yet always instructive, story of Bear and Human, written by the leading scientific authority in the field. This book is for everyone who camps, hikes, or visits bear country -and for anyone who wants to learn more about these fearsome but always fascinating wild creatures.

Book Information

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"[R] equired reading." --Rocky Mountain News

What causes bear attacks? When should you play dead and when should you fight an attacking bear? What do we know about black and grizzly bears and how can this knowledge be used to avoid bear attacks? And, more generally, what is the bear's future? Bear Attacks is a thorough and unflinching landmark study of the attacks made on men and women by the great grizzly and the occasionally deadly black bear. This is a book for everyone who hikes, camps, or visits bear country ? and for anyone who wants to know more about these sometimes fearsome but always fascinating wild creatures. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

I have just finished reading the revised edition (copyright 2002) of Bear Attacks by Stephen Herrero.

I read it as a follow-up to Backcountry Bear Basics (copyright 2006) by Dave Smith. Backcountry Bear Basics: The Definitive Guide to Avoiding Unpleasant Encounters (Mountaineers Outdoor Basics). I highly recommend both books for anyone living, working or recreating in what they call "bear country". Both books provide current information on bear behavior, bear management, and best practices for black and brown (grizzly) bears with a focus on minimizing human-bear interactions to the detriment of both. Both books also point out the lifestyle and behavioral differences between black and brown (grizzly) bears. As one who ranches and recreates in "bear country", and has also worked in the back-country of Alaska and Montana, and who enjoys hiking, camping and fishing in our national and state parks I found the practical information presented to be well-documented and well-written and up to date. The picture quality in Bear Attacks is not high and all are black and white pictures. I especially appreciated Chapter 17 (the last chapter in Bear Attacks) on Bear Management. Dr. Herrero clearly and succinctly describes the current state of the challenges we face to coexist (or not) with bears. There may be added value for some to read Chapter 17 first to gain the practical perspective Dr. Herrero provides and then go back and read the rest of his book. Knowing his practical perspective early would have helped me better understand some of his comments and hypotheses in the earlier chapters. I also appreciated the information and perspectives gained from Dr. Herrero's work with brown (grizzly) bears in Italy, and how they have adapted in order to survive. Just to learn there are Italian grizzly bears was news to me! Overall, Dr. Herrero's book raises the question, "what is a bear worth?", and the short answer is: at least worth the price of this book (and Dave Smith's Backcountry Bear Basics) and the effort to take the practical advice therein and be bear aware in "bear country" for the safety and sake of all who travel there.

Very informative, I used as many of Mr. Herrero's recommended bear avoidance techniques on a recent trip to Montana. As we were headed south on a trail we noticed a very large and seemingly fresh set of Brown bear tracks headed north (towards us). After reading this book, for the first time on any backpacking trip I rigged a small titanium cooking pot on my pack belt using a D-ring to bang it on around every blind corner and hill crest. I'd like to think we notified the Brown bear of our presence on the trail and gave him an early exit before we meet. Some of the stories in this book are graphic and disturbing and you will not forget them while out on the trail. That being said our biggest threat in the forest was not from any bear it was from dry conditions and lighting storms starting fires. I recommend studying up on Forest fires as well as Bear attacks!

Thrilling and informative book! This book was written by the authority on bear attacks in North America. There are graphic descriptions of real attacks that can be difficult to read, but I'm glad I read it, for the safety of my family and friends. If you plan to visit bear country (black or brown bear), at least one person in your party should read this book and use the advice of the author, who has studied all reported bear attacks in North America for decades.

I enjoyed this book overall. Unlike other reviewers, I did not get the impression the author had a "shoot first" attitude or that in most situations where there is a confrontation with people, the bear should be killed. He does however point out that in many instances this is exactly what happens when people are too ignorant or foolish to respect such magnificent carnivores, or when they behave such that because they are in a "national park" that therefore they are 100% safe out in the wild. In any case, the book is interesting and well written. However, it is unfortunate that the photos and drawings are poor quality B&W.

This book was recommended to me by bear biologists and rangers from the NPS in Alaska who spend their lives working in very dense bear areas. I found the book to be very readable and based on fact instead of emotions and opinions. I learned a great deal from the book and read some sections twice before venturing out into the Alaska backcountry to photograph Brown Bears. The best defense, or safety, when in bear country is knowledge. Much of what you learn in this book is counter-intuitive! Even after spending 30+ years around bears (Black Bears) I really learned a LOT of useful information. The author also does a great job of backing up any claims with data and evidence -- versus opinion. I wish this book was available on Kindle too.

YES! This book contains a quote from the 19th century which is quite possibly the best thing I've ever read: "Hence the peculiar charm of a fight with a grizzly! If you kill your bear, it is a triumph worth enjoying; if you get killed yourself, some of the newspapers will give you a friendly notice; if you get crippled for life, you carry about you a patent of courage which may be useful in case you go into politics. Besides, it has its effect upon the ladies. A "chawed" man is very much admired all over the world." However, a better summary of the book comes directly from the author: "If you see a grizzly you instantly become one of the few who have shared moments with the species that cannot adapt to the domestication of North America, the species that defines one of the few types of wilderness we have left. Feelings of fear, inspiration, and awe may generate images of pristine North America when it was complete with bison and wolves and when humans were still pioneers

treading on the edge of something big and rich beyond definition. But images of mauled and mutilated people may also enter the mind, for this too is part of the grizzly."

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