



Guts

By Gary Paulsen

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Guess what -- Gary Paulsen was being kind to Brian. In *Guts*, Gary tells the real stories behind the Brian books, the stories of the adventures that inspired him to write Brian Robeson's story: working as an emergency volunteer; the death that inspired the pilot's death in *Hatchet*; plane crashes he has seen and near-misses of his own. He describes how he made his own bows and arrows, and takes readers on his first hunting trips, showing the wonder and solace of nature along with his hilarious mishaps and mistakes. He shares special memories, such as the night he attracted every mosquito in the county, or how he met the moose with a sense of humor, and the moose who made it personal. There's a handy chapter on "Eating Eyeballs and Guts or Starving: The Fine Art of Wilderness Nutrition." Recipes included. Readers may wonder how Gary Paulsen survived to write all of his books -- well, it took guts.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

What do you do when you're being charged by a red-eyed furious wall of brown fur that is an insane moose? How do you make a weapon with your bare hands? How do you sneak up on a grouse or a rabbit, kill it with a well-aimed arrow, and cook it over a fire--without a pot? All this and lots more is essential learning for Brian Robeson, the young wilderness survivor in Gary Paulsen's classic novel *Hatchet*. In writing that book, Paulsen was determined that everything that happened to Brian--the survival techniques and the physical and emotional traumas--would be drawn closely from reality and his own experiences. In *Guts* he reveals the stories behind *Hatchet*, as he lived them. Linked to specific incidents from Brian's ordeal are the skills and insights Paulsen learned as a teenager passionately in love with hunting in the north woods of Minnesota, the extremes of exhaustion and cold he knew in running the Iditarod dog races in Alaska, the chilling close-up knowledge of heart attacks from his experiences as a volunteer ambulance driver, the silence and majesty of the wilderness. Some great stories are told here: the child killed by two kicks from the razor-sharp hooves of a small deer, the difficulties of sharing a rescue helicopter ride with a terrified dog team, and some spectacular gross-outs about the nutritional need to eat every part of an animal. *Hatchet* fans will be agog, and parents and teachers will be thrilled to see the enthusiastic reaction of even the most reluctant readers. (Ages 10 to 14) --Patty Campbell

From School Library Journal

Gr 5 Up--Paulsen's collection of essays (Delacorte, 2001) are intended to draw parallels between his own incredible life experiences and the fictional wilderness survival adventures of Brian Robeson in *Hatchet* and the sequels, and it's chock full of survival tips. While each chapter begins with a brief paragraph from one of his books, it is not necessary to have read them to enjoy *Guts*. Brian's methods of survival are drawn from Paulsen's own experiences growing up and working in the north woods. He taught himself to hunt with a rifle at the age of 12, and had been hunting with bow and arrows (which he made himself) for some time before he acquired the rifle. Paulsen describes his first kills and, despite his love of the sport, his mixed feelings about ending the animals' lives. He mentions that the meat of an animal that you've killed and cooked yourself is delicious. And includes numerous tips on cooking without pots or utensils. Chapters like "Things That Hurt," "Killing to Live," and "Eating Eyeballs and Guts or Starving" provide much practical information on surviving in the wild. He's not sparing with the gory details. Patrick Lawlor's reading is true to the uninterrupted style in which each chapter is written. It is much like listening to one's grandfather reminisce about his youth. A one way conversation to savor, and store up for future use.- Cary Frostick, Mary Riley Styles Public Library, Falls Church, VA α(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From the Inside Flap

Guess what -- Gary Paulsen was being kind to Brian. In "Guts, Gary tells the real stories behind the Brian books, the stories of the adventures that inspired him to write Brian Robeson's story: working as an emergency volunteer; the death that inspired the pilot's death in "Hatchet; plane crashes he has seen and near-misses of his own. He describes how he made his own bows and arrows, and takes readers on his first hunting trips, showing the wonder and solace of nature along with his hilarious mishaps and mistakes. He shares special memories, such as the night he attracted every mosquito in the county, or how he met the moose with a sense of humor, and the moose who made it personal. There's a handy chapter on "Eating Eyeballs and Guts or Starving: The Fine Art of Wilderness Nutrition." Recipes included. Readers may wonder how Gary Paulsen survived to write all of his books -- well, it took guts.

"From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Esther Price:

Book is actually written, printed, or highlighted for everything. You can know everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. We all know that that book is important issue to bring us around the world. Next to that you can your reading expertise was fluently. A book Guts will make you to be smarter. You can feel considerably more confidence if you can know about everything. But some of you think which open or reading any book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they are often thought like that? Have you trying to find best book or ideal book with you?

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