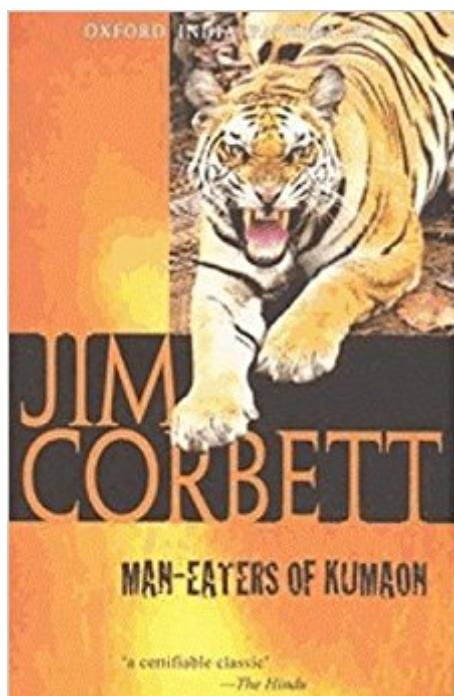


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Man-Eaters Of Kumaon (Oxford India Paperbacks)



Synopsis

Jim Corbett was every inch a hero, something like a "sahib" Davy Crockett: expert in the ways of the jungle, fearless in the pursuit of man-eating big cats, and above all a crack shot. Brought up on a hill-station in north-west India, he killed his first leopard before he was nine and went on to achieve a legendary reputation as a hunter. Corbett was also an author of great renown. His books on the man-eating tigers he once tracked are not only established classics, but have by themselves created almost a separate literary genre. *Man Eaters of Kumaon* is the best known of Corbett's books, one which offers ten fascinating and spine-tingling tales of pursuing and shooting tigers in the Indian Himalayas during the early years of this century. The stories also offer first-hand information about the exotic flora, fauna, and village life in this obscure and treacherous region of India, making it as interesting a travelogue as it is a compelling look at a bygone era of big-game hunting.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'It was not only the ripping-yarn action of the stories and the engrossing narratives that held me, I was just as much taken by the man who recounted them. Through the most riveting episodes, his compassionate character and quiet voice seemed personally to speak to me ... The book has neverpaled, never dated, and I have never forgotten its significance or the astonishing, gentle man who wrote it.' Martin Booth, *The Sunday Times*

Jim Corbett, who died in 1955, gave up big-game hunting in the 1920s as he became an ardent conservationist. His other books include *Jungle Lore* and *My India*, both published by Oxford.

I knew this book was old and didn't quite know what to expect. From the first sentence to the last it captivated and held me on the edge of my chair. Super book about an incredible man who has super-human courage. I was amazed at the ferocious habits of these tigers and how terrifying life is for the people of India living with these animals in their midst. The writing is superb and so vivid, it seems like you are right there as the events unfold. I am sharing this book with many of my friends and they are equally impressed. I would have liked to have met Col. Corbett and have the very great opportunity to hear his stories. Incredible life and novel.

Jim Corbett, who went alone to kill man eating tigers, some of which had killed up to 400 people tells a spine tingling story of the terror of the hill people when a man eater was loose, an uncanny affinity with the jungle, the animals who by their calls helped him accurately place the tiger, and his extensive knowledge of tigers who by their preference for human flesh, usually due to injury, had also learned the techniques and ways of man. Some of the duels lasted for months, and on many occasions he was lucky to escape with his life.

If you are interested in period pieces surrounding true events and real conditions, this would be a good book to read. The author tells the story in first person, about the difficulties in ridding the countryside of man-eaters, specifically tigers. It's a dangerous job, done for other than 'hunting' reasons, will little reward. I enjoyed the narrative for it's realism and straightforward approach to solving a very real problem for the rural people in the areas affected.

The way I see this book is as an adventure novel. Granted it does describe the killing of tigers (along with other large cats) but nowhere did I ever get the impression that Corbett was killing to satisfy some bloodlust or to achieve fame. As I have defended the book, Corbett had a job to deal with tigers who presented a danger to humans. The tigers here tended to go for humans primarily because of illness or old age. These are adventure stories and the descriptions of the people and the landscape are colorful and wonderful.

I'm now in my late 70's and have read the writing of Jim Corbett since I was in my twenties. For anyone who has stalked and hunted dangerous animals, or is interested in stories which tell of those

who have, and also who is interested in the lives of high-country sub-continental villagers and the relationship they had with those who were considered to be their colonial rulers, Jim Corbett's books are essential reading. The ability to write with simplicity and clarity is a rare skill. His writing takes the reader into the story, and enables him to appreciate the tension and danger that the hunter experiences; how the hunter feels when at the crucial moment he realizes that any any false or mistaken move will result in his death. The Man Eaters of Kumaon is such a book.

None but Corbett could ever have written this treasure of a book. His intimate knowledge of the animals, birds, plants and even fish makes for fascinating reading. Combine that encyclopedic knowledge with his familiarity with the hill people and their customs and social conventions...Corbett could, and took the time to, talk to even the lowliest villager to get the firsthand information he needed to make his hunting plans. He also gained the greatest respect and cooperation in his initial contacts with the villagers because he spoke to them at their level and in their language, rather than dealing with them as the typical British Colonial Officer would have. To say nothing of the man's bravery and hardihood in pursuing tigers that had killed scores of men and women and having found them, killed them at contact range!

An informative, well written, exciting book to read. Whether one is a hunter or not, one can't help but learn a lot about tigers as well as a few things about the culture of India. I would have thought that a description that goes into so much detail, such as the how the wind was blowing and how a blade of grass moved, would be boring, but it was not. Instead, these details draw the reader into the scene, as if he is there with the hunter. Being a true story makes the read even more exciting and enjoyable. The author's talent in spinning words into graphic pictures also contributes to making this one of the most enjoyable books I have read.

When I was a boy about 16 years old I read one of Corbett's books about man-eating tigers and loved it. I'm now 69 years old and never forgot how much I enjoyed that book. When I saw this book was available I couldn't wait to get it and start reading it. I started reading it and was immediately sent back 53 years (in my mind, of course) and couldn't put it down. Now I'm looking for more of Corbett's writings because I find them so enthralling.

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