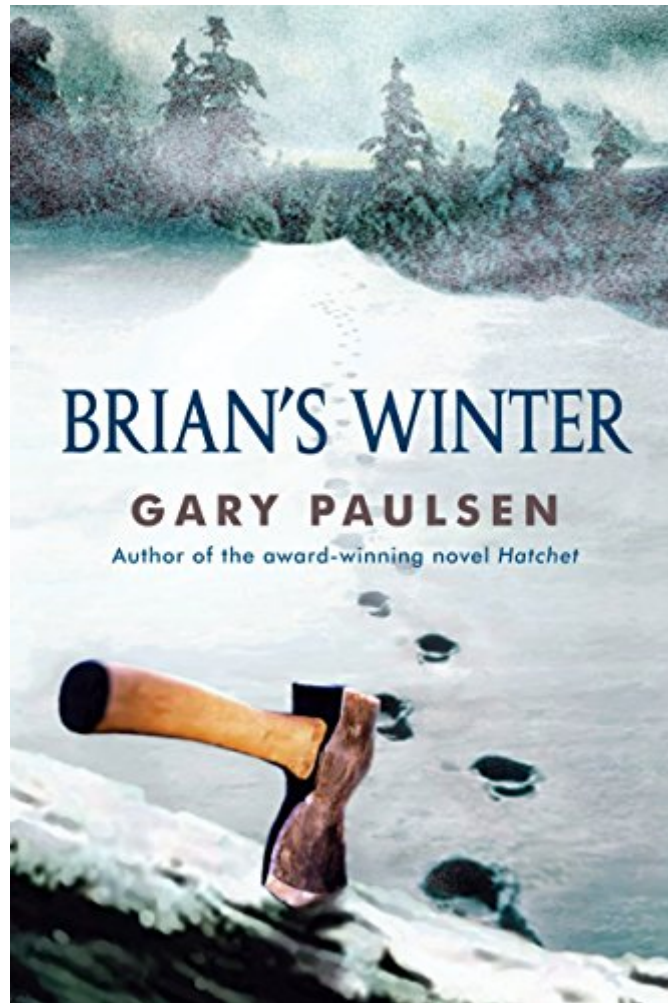




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Brian's Winter (Brian's Saga Book 3)



Synopsis

In Hatchet, 13-year-old Brian Robeson learned to survive alone in the Canadian wilderness, armed only with his hatchet. Finally, as millions of readers know, he was rescued at the end of the summer. But what if Brian hadn't been rescued? What if he had been left to face his deadliest enemy--winter? Gary Paulsen raises the stakes for survival in this riveting and inspiring story as one boy confronts the ultimate test and the ultimate adventure. From the Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

I read "Hatchet" as an assignment in college. I was thrilled with Paulson's writing. I have read most of his books, but own all of Brian's stories. I gave my daughters the stories to read. They gave it to my grandkids. I hope my granddaughter continues the tradition with my great grandson.

What an incredible story coming from an incredible author. I am 56 and enjoyed this book as if I were a young person. Paulson knows how to captivate and entertain with a wonderful sense of

humor. 10 or 60, if you like adventure, you will love this book!

The five novels that make up the "Hatchet" series by Gary Paulsen are among the most profoundly sad books I have ever read. Providing specific reasons why I think this would create spoilers, so I must tiptoe carefully through these woods. Hatchet: 20th Anniversary Edition— was the first, but written as a single book. Reader response was so powerful that Paulsen wrote one, then two, and finally four more books about Brian Robeson and his multiple sojourns in the Canadian wilderness. In "Hatchet" Brian has no choice--the two-passenger airplane is crash-landed and Brian begins his terribly difficult first stay during which he learns how to survive whatever the wilderness brings."Brian's Winter" is the third book written in the series but second in chronology. Instead of being rescued (not a spoiler--surely the reader surmises a rescue if there are more books), Brian simply continues his unplanned stay with readers willingly, cheerfully going along with Paulsen's intent. After all, it was reader demand that caused Paulsen to write a continuation. Winter brings a whole new set of problems and life view for Brian, who learns to live by his brain, along with his brawn. How to create weapons for hunting--for Brian, the hunt for food is everything, the only thing for all animals--and how to listen and be aware of everything. His teacher is the wolf, who travels its territory, periodically stopping to take assessment of its surroundings, to listen to and learn everything about those surroundings and what's in them. Out of the events of the novel, I want to describe two, one utterly fascinating, the other utterly horrifying. The fascinating occurrence was the natural explosion of trees. The outside bark and sap freeze at a certain temperature, then as the temperature continues to drop, the interior freezing. With nowhere inside to expand, the tree must explode where it freezes. Brian learns this the hard way. The other occurrence was the attack by a huge male moose, which becomes Brian's food supply for several weeks--think of the wilderness as a giant freezer. Oh, you think I just gave a spoiler? Not with two more books to come in the series!"Brian's Winter" is mesmerizing, even addictive. The reader wants to go with Brian, but through the comfort of an armchair and cozy surroundings (speaking for myself). What makes this series so compelling? I've thought considerably about this topic and decided there is more to it than the adventure/thriller/true life aspect (for in truth Paulsen has done everything Brian does). The most serious component of Brian's "adventure" is its permanent draw. After living deeply and "sucking the marrow" out of life (Henry David Thoreau in— Walden (Concord Library), a book I'm considering rereading now), Brian finds city life stultifying. No, I won't say more. However, the series reminded me of two other writers: Jack London and Ernest Hemingway, London for his wilderness stories and Hemingway for his deliberate manner of writing about the things men do. An amusing footnote is

that Paulsen calls London's understanding of the wilderness as "silliness." Each of the five novels treats the themes of survival, living deliberately, staying close to nature and learning from her, but also each introduces a separately different theme. In the last, *Brian's Hunt*, the author examines that tight bond between man and dog. Which book is best? I cannot choose. I enjoyed them all--immensely. So why did I call the books "profoundly sad"? Brian is forever changed because of those forced 54 days in the wilderness and finds that life lived outside the wilderness is not worth living. Paulsen's descriptions of both city life and wilderness life are compelling. Even though the reader may not (probably not) choose wilderness, he/she at least has a vague outsider's understanding of why someone would choose such a life. Paulsen himself did. A last comment: Technically, the books are classified as books for older children, but I find they have much to offer adults, thus defying classification (as with any great book). This series is a genuinely profound reading experience for all ages. Note: The books in published order are: *Hatchet: 20th Anniversary Edition*, *The River* (not found on reasonably priced), *Brian's Winter*, *Brian's Return*, *Brian's Hunt*

This was recommended for my son by a friend who is a retired teacher. She knew my son was a bookworm and loved the outdoors type of adventures. She'd mentioned how both of her boys had loved it growing up so she had used it for her students in class as well. It is well written and great for teens or young adults! Both my sons loved it, so my husband got curious and read it too! Then I ordered them the rest in the "Brian" series! All were equally well received by all the "men in my house"!

Gary Paulsen has done it again. *Brian's Winter* continues the original "Hatchet" story supposing Brian were not rescued before Winter set in. My children and my boy scout troop have enjoyed this immensely. I purchased the unabridged audiobook. Actor Richard Thomas, who portrayed Johnboy Walton on TV, narrates this excellent production. A small amount of appropriate music accompanies the narration. Paulsen's writing and Thomas' reading are so good that I think there must have been sound effects, but upon reviewing a few exciting sections of the story I found none; if used, they are used sparingly and never detracted from the story. I'd previously imparted some my military experience to those I lead. However, I believe my children, my scouts, my fellow scouters (other scout leaders), and even I am better able to understand what real survival entails after reading (and now hearing) the Hatchet stories. These books are the perfect counterpoint to Tom Hanks character in the movie "Castaway." Side-by-side, the two offer a superb illustration of the fundamental characteristics of survival, while each offering it's own perspectives on surviving within diverse

circumstances. Other survival movies and stories that I love include Walkabout coming out of Australia, Shackleton's Adventure in the Antarctic, and Paradise by Joan Elizabeth Goodman. There are also many real-life accounts online at[...]for example.

My 9 year old LOVED Hatchet so we bought him all the books by Gary Paulsen. He says they all seem to follow the same literary "formula" just in different settings - winter, an island, etc but he loves the outdoors and adventure books so he enjoys them, despite their slight predictability.

I really loved how the author brings you into Brian's adventure. And how he describes in detail what the weather is like each day. It is like he is teaching us how to survive if we were ever faced with what Brian had to go thru just to stay alive everyday. Loved books on survival. I loved how he brought others into the story. Its like hey there's other people out here and I could have lived with them awhile lot sooner. But then it would be a boring book. So Gary Paulsen made you go thru it with Brian. Wonderfully written!

First, let me state that I am a Grandmother who read Hatchett and then Brian's Winter at the request of my 10 year old grandson who loved both books. I enjoyed reading Hatchett and I found it to have more of a plot as Brian deals with several different emotional issues. Brian's Winter was a continuation of Brian's survival adventures. My 10 year old grandson was all in - I would have liked a little more. I gave the book a 5 star rating because I love to find good books for young boys. If you have a young boy who is into all the survival shows on TV, he will love comparing his skills to Brians.

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