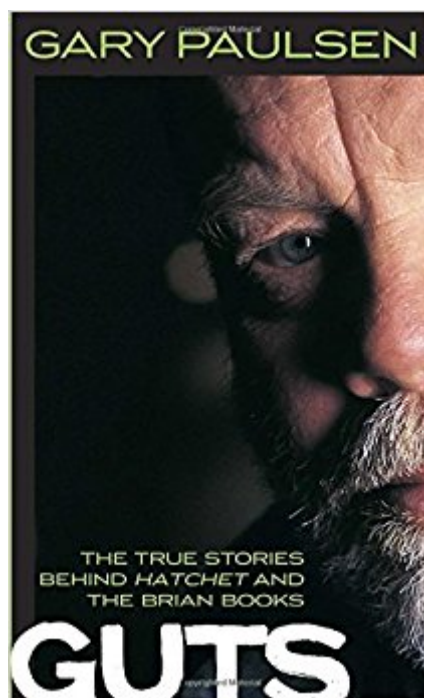


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# Guts



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1230 (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 105 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #75,669 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in [Books > Teens > Biographies > Literary](#) #25 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary Criticism & Collections](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

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 --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

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 (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

I loved the *Hatchet* books when I was younger, and got them for my younger cousin for Christmas. That's when I saw this book. My husband and I are in our 30's and we both enjoyed this book. I have dyslexia which makes reading laborious and not something I look forward to. But Gary

Paulsen writes very clearly and makes you feel like you are watching the story, rather than just decoding letters and words. The experiences he talks about from his real life are incredible. I would recommend this book to anyone regardless of age or gender. Keep in mind though, some of the stories talk about people dying in tragic manners. It is a great companion book to read after the Hatchet series, but you don't need to have read those books to enjoy this one.

Awesome stories from a super easy-to-read author. Many of the skills and experiences shared by Gary are not very common nowadays. I'd love to find more books of true stories like this.

Gary Paulsen can do no wrong. My son LOVED his books, and he is a kid who does not have a love for reading. He made me read Paulsen's books when he finished them so we could talk about how good they were.

I've been a boy scout, Eagle Scout, a camper et' cetera: I have not 'lived' and existed only on what I could get 'outdoors' in a wilderness. I have not ate guts, eyeballs or entrails to live. I am not an outdoors man and didn't understand what it would take to become one! Living 'off the land' in a wilderness takes more than I ever knew! MUCH MORE! The book GUTS spelled that out clearly for me as it will for any reader. I learned by his narrative and experiences, and I hope I never have to become self-dependent in the wilderness. I greatly enjoyed and became wiser by reading his book and of his experiences!

I read this book years ago and purchased it as a gift for a Minnesota friend who grew up hunting, trapping and fishing. I'm sure he will enjoy it. It's also been a great book for young adults, especially males, who are reluctant readers.

The author has led a varied and adventurous life and shares that life with an excellent writing style. His interests and curiosity seem boundless.

My son is in fifth grade and loved the stories in this book. It was neat to hear how Mr. Paulsen lived the stories he wrote about. It made my son and I want to read all his books!

Paulsen has a way of grabbing you right into his books in the first few lines. This book is an awesome testament to his bumpy and fascinating life journey. I came away with admiration for his

free spirit, his ability to communicate with complete effectiveness, and his complete honesty in revealing personal flaws and emotions. If you like real life edge-of-your-seat adventure with a healthy twist of humor, then this book is worth your time and money.

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