



If You Didn't Bring Jerky, What Did I Just Eat?: Misadventures in Hunting, Fishing, and the Wilds of Suburbia

Bill Heavey

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For nearly a decade, Bill Heavey, an outdoorsman marooned in suburbia, has written the “Sportsman’s Life” column on the back page of *Field & Stream*, where he does for hunting and fishing what David Feherty does for golf and Lewis Grizzard did for the South. His work is adored by readers—one proclaims him “the greatest sportswriter who has ever walked the planet,” and another recently wrote in to nominate him for president of the United States in 2008—and his peers have recognized his work with two prestigious National Magazine Award nominations. *If You Didn't Bring Jerky, What Did I Just Eat?* is the first collection of Heavey’s sidesplitting observations on life as a hardcore (but often hapless) outdoorsman. Whether he’s hunting cougars in the southwest desert, scheming to make his five-year-old daughter fall in love with fishing, or chronicling his father’s slow decline through the lens of the numerous dogs he’s owned over seventy-five years, Heavey is a master at blending humor and pathos—and wide-ranging outdoor enthusiasms that run the gamut from elite to ordinary—into a poignant and potent cocktail. Funny, warmhearted, and supremely entertaining, this book is an uproarious addition to the literature of the outdoors.

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From Reader Review If You Didn't Bring Jerky, What Did I Just Eat?: Misadventures in Hunting, Fishing, and the Wilds of Suburbia for online ebook

Jennifer Miller says

I skipped over several of the hunting stories as I preferred the fishing ones. The stories were entertaining but sometimes lacked necessary detail for the layman reader. I think that's why I skipped over the hunting stories; I didn't understand everything.

My favorite was the sentimental tear-jerker "Lilyfish." Ironic for a humor book. It's a great read for anyone who wants to understand why some people release their emotions via their outdoorsman hobby.

Doug Newell says

Collection of short stories about hunting, fishing, the outdoors, and life. Most are funny, some made me feel sorry for the author. Some made me tear up, like Hunter's Heart. That story is worth the price. If you hunt or fish, you may enjoy it.

Ross M says

Enjoyable short stories

Ted Knudson says

What can I say, I was slowed down by the approaching hunting season. The need for field time, planning, and shopping for hunting goods was a distraction. I enjoyed the talents of Mr. Heavey (what a name, really? I guess if you're saddled with that moniker and use it to author in Field & Stream, you are committed!) Perfect bed time reading for the outdoorsman in your life.

Jess says

Really funny and oddly informative as this is a collection of funny anicdotes about hunting and all things outdoors. Each story was only about 2 pages long so this was my read-at-stoplights and at-the-drive-though book in the car.

Kody says

For all those hunters and fishers this is a great book that explains why we do what we do! Very funny

Hope says

A friend recommended this because I like Pat McManus. Heavey is a very different writer than McManus, less laugh out loud humor, more subtle jabs. He spends far too much time describing the precise gear he uses for deer hunting or fishing. When he gets away from that, and into telling a real story, there are some gems; unfortunately for my taste, those stories are too few.

Gregg says

I really enjoyed this book. It consists of self-effacing essays on the author's outdoor experiences. It is a lot of laughs. My only criticism is that way too many of the essays focus on deer hunting rather than on a variety of outdoor experiences. Heavey's (few) essays on fishing are really great

Mithell says

If You Didn't Bring Jerky, What Did I Just Eat?

BY: Bill Heavey

This book had some really funny parts about it and some just good stories. I think It was my favorite book and the way he uses his words and good to. I think you should read it for a good laugh.

This book had some strengths and some weakness as well. I think the strengths were how funny it was and the way he uses his words to put the text all together which was funny. Now some weakness are that I wish that some of the stories were longer and that there were way more of them because it would have made it more fun to read.

If I had to rate this book 5 being the best 1 being the worst I would rate it a 4 because I wish some of the stories were longer.

I think the person who would like this book is Daniel meeker because I know that he like funny books and good stories.

This book I think it would fall into historical because it all happened in the past and it is real.

Pamela K. says

I found this man and this book hilarious! As a woman growing up in a family with 5 siblings...2 sisters and 3

brothers, I was exposed to the man's side of the world a lot, when I wasn't baking, etc. and am a better woman for it, it made me a well-rounded person able to understand and actually enjoy activities men also enjoy!

I am a grandma now with a 5 year-old grandson who lives in Idaho...lots of wilderness and outdoor activities there so I am able to enjoy it with him, my husband and my son and genuinely love it all!

I'd not recommend this book for every woman, but she loves the outdoors, has fished, hunted, and enjoyed wilderness experiences...she will laugh her butt off reading the funny, funny, book written by a man I would love talking with!!!

Men that are hunters, fisherman and avid outdoorsmen...I HIGHLY recommend this book for a great laugh and MANY of them!

Nichole Hollingsworth says

So I am neither a hunter or a fisherman but I still enjoy Bill Heavey's writing. Its honor about his foibles as well as the peace and joy of being in nature. He also has the most honest self-deprecating humor I have run across in a while and a sort of awe at his circumstances-being invited on big hunts with far more skilled outdoorsmen. I also enjoyed the stories where he focused on the relationships between people, whether his friends, wife, or daughter. Thoroughly enjoyable.

Randy A says

Stupidly funny!

Wilson Lanue says

Most of the time, I'd rather be outdoors than reading about it. Outdoor writers as a breed tend to be men with too much pride to record their mistakes, who instead find drama in promoting gear and excursions that few in their right mind would break the bank for.

Heavey is different. His main stock in trade is humor, and he delivers by eloquently and unrelentingly poking fun at his own misadventures as a fisherman and hunter.

I first discovered his column, in a cast-off 'Field & Stream,' when I was younger and easier to squeeze a laugh from. And that one-page piece ('I Want My Bass TV,' reproduced on page 71 here) squeezed big ones. The years have made me that much harder to surprise and so that much harder to tickle. It was therefore with some trepidation that I approached this volume. Would Heavey be as good as I remembered? Surely not...

He is. I got lost in the pages and was soon laughing as I haven't laughed in years. A few nuggets of Heavey wisdom:

"I have always held that the first thing to do with anything new that you love is to go out and bang it against something. Once that initial ding is out of the way, you can get on with enjoying it." (One Moment Please...)

"Young guys invariably assume their lives are unique and fascinating, but older guys know that, superficial differences aside, we're really all as alike as eggs." (The Fat Man)

"Like many ineffectual people, I am addicted to the transitory endorphin buzz that comes from impressing somebody besides my own mother." (Why Knot?)

Chances are, those didn't make you laugh. Hopefully, they made you smile at just how true they are. You'll just have to pick up the book for the real laughs, because they come from reading larger stretches. Heavey builds them over the course of a page or three, casually putting down mere facts, though well expressed, until he can jerk the line and bring them into newer heights of comic observation with a few choice words.

That is his skill, and he's a master at it.

But be warned: It is a mastery not always used in the pursuit of laughter, and those rare moments when he ventures into life's dearest pain punch all the harder for the mirth surrounding them. To quote Heavey's editor at F&S, from the foreword: "I don't know of any writer who can hit from both sides of the plate as well as he. One reader wrote in suggesting a Kleenex warning appear next to any of his stories in which the transition from humor to pathos is especially quick."

Anyway, even if hunting and fishing are incomprehensible to you, I doubt you'll be disappointed in this book. But if I say any more nice things about it, I might spoil something for you.

Les Wolf says

A series of entertaining stories highlighting Bill Heavey's adventures in the great outdoors. From South America to Alaska the author pursues a prodigious variety of hooved and finned quarry.

There are lessons to learn, laughs to share and a few sentimental moments.

All in all, a very good Field and Stream book.

Justin says

Okay, I'm probably feeling a little generous giving this one 5 stars, but it's the best of its sort of thing I've read in a long time.

I think of Heavey as the F&S humor columnist. He's usually funny without being hilarious (there are touches of McManus here, but very few, and it's a pretty different aesthetic). Heavey plays the average guy well -- he's self-effacing, but he rarely makes himself into a complete idiot. He's a guy like you, except he gets to go cool places. And he also does things like forget his pants and end up hunting in his longjohns.

What I hadn't remembered about Heavey is how well he does serious, too, whether it's tackling the death of a kid (in an article I did remember very well, even if I'd forgotten the byline), a sad but unforgettable mountain lion hunt, or a Hunt of Lifetime trip.

This book was supposed to kill some time between bigger works, but it ended up being my favorite read in sometime, and one I could barely spread out properly.
