



Jaguars Ripped My Flesh

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The author of *A Wolverine Is Eating My Leg* and *Pecked to Death by Ducks* gives new meaning to the words "going to extremes" in this exhilarating--and frequently hilarious--collection of adventure travel writing. "Cahill . . . (writes) with the precision of John McPhee and Joan Didion tempered by a Monty Pythonesque sense of the absurd."--San Diego Union-Tribune.

Jaguars Ripped My Flesh Details

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Author : Tim Cahill

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From Reader Review Jaguars Ripped My Flesh for online ebook

Mylie Bucyrus says

Great adventure/travel writing, the series of articles in the book really draw you to some incredible parts of the planet and make you want to renew your passport and buy a plane ticket. Really enjoyed it.

Jennifer Barbee says

After reading the dreadful crumudgeon Bill Bryson and his unfunny, uninteresting musings on the state of modern travel, Tim Cahill couldn't have been a bigger breath of fresh air. Cahill is the real deal. His sense of humor in the face of danger, his true willingness to engage in potentially lethal activities, and his tremendous sensitivity and insight into other cultures make this collection (and all of his collections) a must read for anyone feeling the old wanderlust. If you can't travel to the farthest corners of the world tomorrow, your next best bet is to let Cahill do it for you.

Keith Skinner says

I wanted to read some early Cahill after taking a workshop with Tim. This book didn't disappoint. I'm sure some will find the bombastic title off-putting but that's the point, to challenge adventure travel writing that is insincere, inaccurate, and disingenuous. Tim has an understated humor that is hilarious, and he delivers a wealth of information about places, cultures, and environmental populations while being entertaining. A must read for anyone who ventures beyond their front door and even for those who don't.

Nathan Eaton says

This was a great collection of articles. Tim Cahill did a great job of blending laughs and making you really stop to think. I really enjoyed his sections about Latin America, which for some reason I haven't read a lot of travel pieces about. Goodreads nailed it on the suggestions again. I will be looking for more Cahill in the future.

Cahill reads like a less grumpy and slightly less humorous Bill Bryson. One of his biggest strengths though, lies in his ability to convey deeper emotion. I'm already a huge fan of turtles, and am aware of the terrible treatment they receive and a lot of the conservation efforts. His piece on the Olive Ridleys in Mexico is both heartfelt and heart wrenching. You also get a good look at his human side when detailing the events surrounding the Mt. St. Helens eruption.

Rex Fuller says

I was slow to this, a collection of Tim Cahill's first articles, believing his early effort not as polished as the

later. Needn't have quibbled. If you like Cahill, you will enjoy this one as much as any. With his familiar understated irony he describes catching venomous sea snakes in the Philippines, "swimming" with sharks near Catalina, and playing chicken in a kayak with calving ice in Glacier Bay. The best is at the end. In two pieces, the first written from an observation point near Mt. St. Helens before the eruption, in which he largely predicted what did happen, and the second a follow-up after the explosion, he gives the best description of the event that I have seen. He does not say so, but it is fairly apparent he would have died in the blast if he had stayed until the actual eruption. But when you think about it, any number of the things he writes about would have been deadly by a difference of inches or moments of time. But that's just it. You do have to think about it in order to realize it. He just gives you a smile and something for your own list of places to see.

keith koenigsberg says

Excellent travel and adventure writing. It finished a little weaker than it started, though. The first few chapters read like good travel writing, but the last few read like his assignments for Outside Magazine: shorter, more narrowly focused (a day of hang-gliding for example) and more PC. A bit preachy on environmental issues, too.

Olya says

It meandered from one random thought to another until it lost me.

Jim says

A nice collection of essays, somewhat dated but nonetheless interesting. A few I skipped over because of lack of interest in the story, but many were very good, from his parachuting to adventure expeditions. I like his sense of humor. I like living vicariously through the experiences of the good travel writers. I had to track this one down via inter-library loan, but it was well worth it.

Lynne says

I have not been fond of travel books previously, but I think I'm going to read all of Tim Cahill's. His prose can carry you from a sense of yearning for the land he is describing, to the hilarious effects drinking various kinds of booze can have on the individual unaccustomed to them. He almost gets shot, sort of, in South America somewhere; he hates Hooty the Owl comprehensively and entertainingly, he jumps out of airplanes and dives into caves - and he is very skilled at taking you with him on the trip. You can almost smell the abattoir of dead turtles, almost feel like you're drowning while diving in an underwater cave. Contrarily, you feel the heat of the jungle, the pressure of the wind, see the remote reaches of the mountains - and breathe deeply of fresh clean air. It's a fun trip, wherever you're going with him. I enjoyed his travels very much. Also, North Dakota jokes!

Julian Walker says

A superb collection of writings covering exposing turtle poaching, hanging out with a wild gorilla xxx, rock climbing, shark diving, hang gliding, parachuting, erupting volcanoes - phew.

The list of this man's activities goes on and on, and each one is entertaining and engrossing, veering from drama to outrage, gentle humor to the outrageous.

Travel and adventure truly rolled into one.

Cracking stuff and a great read.

Chris says

More of the same excellent magazine articles from Cahill. Pretty indistinguishable from Pass The Butterworms and others, but in a good way. Consistently good and similar in feel to a Bill Bryson article if he did adventure sports

Rebecca says

I didn't even finish this book. I have been seeing it on the shelf for years and while I liked another book by the same author, for some reason, this one just didn't appeal to me. But I'll always try something from the library, nothing lost there but time. I spent a week trying to get into it and finally yesterday morning, I gave up.

Just random travel adventures, which normally I like, but I think they have to take place in a part of the world that I have an interest in going and these were taking place nowhere I cared about. And they seemed really old and dated as well. I got through about half the book and gave up.

Grade: N/A

Jeanette "Astute Crabbist" says

An absolutely outstanding book. This is a collection of pieces the author wrote for *Outside* and some other magazines during the late 70s and early 80s. The book far exceeds the quality of *Pecked to Death by Ducks*, which is the only other of his collections I have read.

The first half of the book covers experiences he had in south America, Australia, the Philippines, and Mexico. I especially liked this section because these were truly adventurous excursions to remote places most of us have never heard about. He writes intelligently and with compassion for the local people whose

traditions and myths are dying out due to modernization and tourism.

The second half of the book is closer to home, involving adventures right here in the U.S. Cahill is in top form for nature writing in "Kayaking Among the Ice Children." The word pictures are so beautiful, I could really see what he was describing. I learned that orca whales will work together to lift and tip icebergs so the sunning harbor seals will fall off into the waiting mouths of other orcas!

There are two pieces about the eruption of Mount St. Helens in 1980. They are excellent coverage not only of the events, but also of the way volcanoes work and the damage they do. The second one, "Eruption," reads like a scary movie, but it really happened! I cried at the end. :(

Having done some nonfiction writing myself, I'm impressed by the quality and depth of information Cahill provides in these articles. He doesn't just tell about his experience. He includes a lot of science and history (never boring) which shows he has done much thoughtful research about the topics and places both before and after visiting them. I hadn't expected to learn so much from this book, so that was a nice bonus.

Ken Jurish says

Funny, mostly, stories of his time in the great outdoors.

Gaía Passarelli says

delicious compilation of one of the best adventure writers there is.
