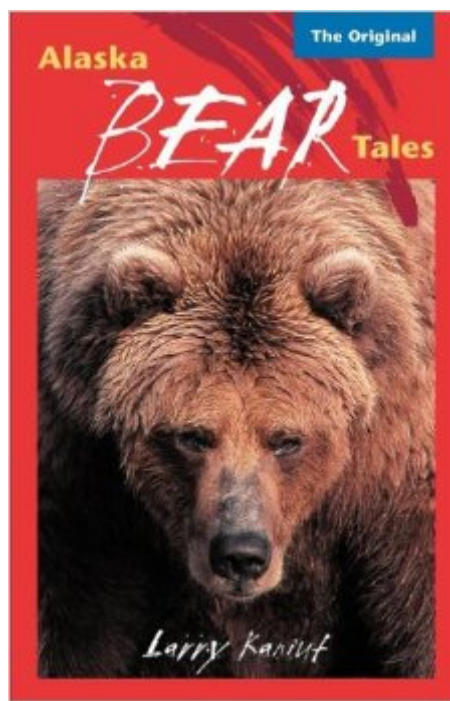


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# Alaska Bear Tales



## Synopsis

"Alaska Bear Tales" is a best-selling collection of edge-of-your-seat accounts of true-life encounters with bears in Alaska.

## Book Information

Paperback: 324 pages

Publisher: Alaska Northwest Books; First Edition edition (June 1, 2003)

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Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.7 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (39 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #131,659 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Bears](#) #105 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Mammals](#) #736 in [Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Fauna](#)

## Customer Reviews

The author of this book, Larry Kanuit, is standing in front of my high school English class right now telling the students how he researches his books and how he writes. About myself: I was a journalist for 15 years before becoming a teacher; much of that career was spent in Alaska. I now teach in Bush Alaska. Most of my students are Native Alaskans. Reviewers who have stated that the author is inventing his stories are wrong. Period. Bear-lovers who say that the author is demonizing bears sound as if they have no real-life, consistent, up-close experience with bears. True, most bears leave you alone. Also true, bears are unpredictable and they will attack, maul, and kill you, without provocation or apparent reason. Kanuit is explaining right now to the students how he interviews the victims (or survivors), uses police and fish and game documents, and essentially "writes a research paper." His research is good. I happen to know some of the same people in his stories, and their stories match the stories in the book. It's a good read. You won't want to walk into the Alaskan Bush without a good firearm, though.

Larry Kaniut has made a career of writing white-knuckled real life thrillers. This book is no different. It's kind of like a car accident, once you start reading you can't turn your eyes away. It's easy to get into the book but hard to put down. What better material than bear attacks to capture your

imagination. There are lessons to learn from this book, but for the most part it is a collection of sensational bear stories presented for their entertainment value. If you are looking for a scientific look at bear attacks, this might not be the book for you - Try Stephen Herrero's *Bear Attacks, Their Causes and Avoidance*. If you want a book that throws one gripping bear attack after another, get this one. And if you didn't get enough from this book, try *More Bear Tales* by Larry Kaniut. One more bit of advice, read this one in your bedroom, not in a tent in the middle of Denali National Park.

I read this book and the sequel to it and found this and the other book to be a fairly accurate depiction of a bear's traits and also it showed the bear as not a senseless savage killer but shed a little light on his behavior and his reactions to human interaction. Mr. Kaniut took the time to research his topic and in my mind this is a book that I can read over and over again. Also the fact that he pulled no punches in each of his stories no matter who was to blame for the encounter or the outcome of the encounter.

I am intrigued by bears - brown, grizzly, black and polar. They are such intelligent, powerful, magnificent animals. I am reading all of Larry Kaniut's books. Some books focus on mauling and killing, which are fascinating as examples of a bear's strength compared to puny man. But close calls, bluff charges, humorous, and cagey stories spell out the fact that every bear is an individual and that no one rule applies when dealing with bears. I have been to Alaska, Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks, and seen bears from afar. I am even planning a vacation to The Great Smokey Mountain National Park this year, just to see black bears. And after all I have read, I will treat them with respect by keeping my distance, photographing them from my car and NOT feeding them. I am greatly saddened when a bear has to be killed because some idiot has habituated that bear by feeding it. The saying is, "A fed bear is a dead bear".

This book is fantastic and I read this in one day. Literally. I picked it up and did not set it down until I had read every last word. Chills, thrills, and even some laughs.

I will admit a little that I am a little partial to Larry Kaniut's books. I was lucky enough to have Mr. Kaniut as an English Teacher when I was in Junior High in Anchorage around 1980. During that time Mr. Kaniut would read to us the stories that are contained in *Alaska Bear Tales*. As a struggling student he made me want to read and write. I am lucky to have a first edition copy of the book. In *Alaska Bear Tales* I know some of the people in the book so the stories are more real to me. Mr.

Kanuit does a great job in pulling the reader into the story. His ability to get people to share the most horrific details of their encounters with bears keeps you wanting more. Anyone looking to read real life drama this is the book to start with. You will not want to put the book down. Luckt for us Mr. Kaniut has written more then one book. Enjoy!

I have been to Alaska and Canada salmon fishing four times. I am planning on going again during the summer of 2000. When we go on these trips, we spend 10 to 12 days out in the Alaskan Wilderness. Although I have always had respect for brown/grizzly bears, I have never been extremely frightened about being mauled or eaten by one. I have only read the first 90 pages of this book, and I am already getting a little chill up my spine thinking about my trip in Y2K. Unfortunately (or fortunately for me), I accidently left my copy of the book on the plane after a recent out of town trip. I need to decide whether to buy another copy of the book now, or wait until I get back from my trip next year. I'm not totally sure I want to read the rest of the book until I get back from my next trip. The Book is extremely graphic, gory, and suspenseful. It will really make you think the next time you are spending the night in the Alaskan Wilderness. I'm sure I have learned some good things from this book, but right now I am getting a little nervous thinking about my next trip. I think I will be peeking around every corner the next time I go to Alaska. If you enjoy real life tales of survival, you'll love this book. If you have a weak stomach, you might want to pass on this purchase.

I have spent a great deal of time over the past 20 years fishing with friends in the Alaskan woods and have seen many bears, browns and blacks. You become too comfortable and complacent after awhile. This book immediately instills new respect for the unexpected. I have ordered three books for my fishing buddies.

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