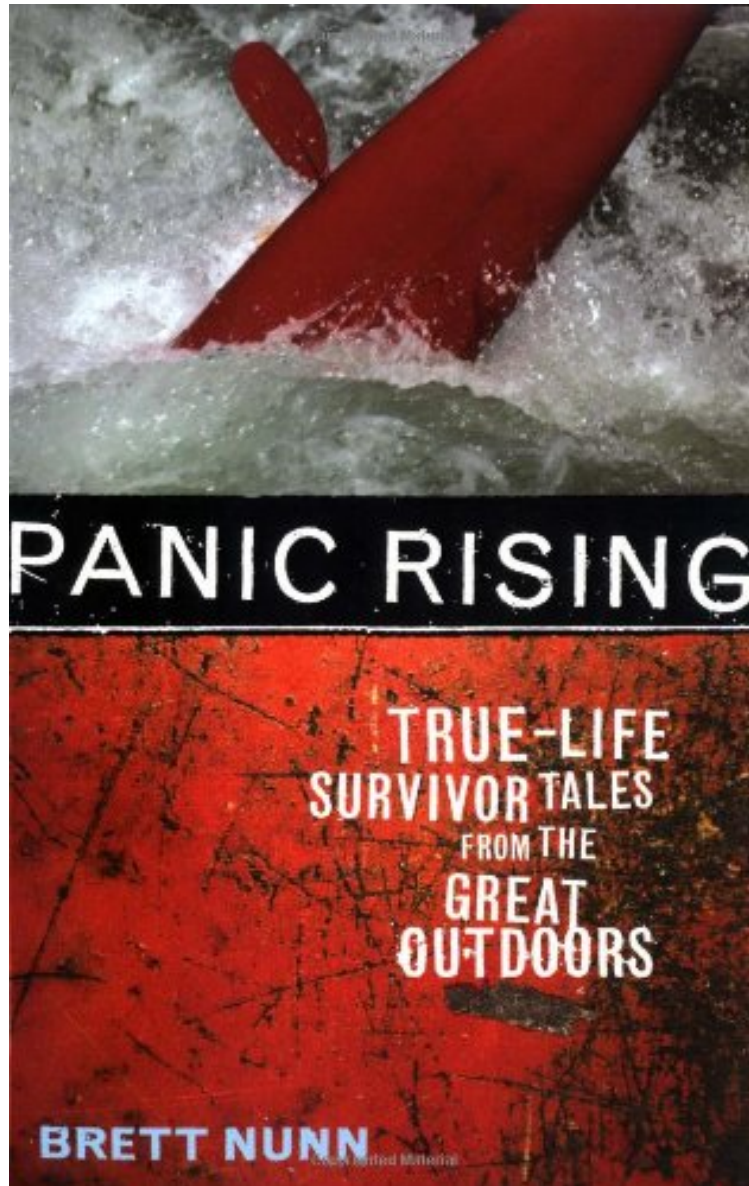


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Panic Rising: True-Life Survivor Tales from the Great Outdoors

Brett Nunn

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Brett Nunn : Panic Rising: True-Life Survivor Tales from the Great Outdoors before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Panic Rising: True-Life Survivor Tales from the Great Outdoors:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very pleased By NellieI was very pleased to receive the book within a week and was able to send it on as it was a Christmas gift for someone. It is an excellent read for someone liking

these types of stories. I would readily order from this person again. Thank you. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By john derby Great. Happy. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Respect for Mother Nature By Susan J. Erickson Panic Rising is aptly named. I felt the sensation reading these fast-paced stories even though I was in a warm and comfy armchair with a hot cup of tea at hand. I liked the idea that these adventures involved ordinary people, rescued and rescuers, who showed courage and fortitude to save lives. I connected especially with the stories set in my own backyard, like Heliotrope Ridge that I've ventured out on. It is so easy to imagine spontaneously sliding down an inviting snowy hill into an unseen crevasse. Yikes! I was struck by the inspiring synchronicity in some of the rescues. I bought this book for my son who loves to hike in the woods and mountains. To be on the safe side maybe it should be accompanied by a personal locator beacon device.

The people in Panic Rising are far from the extreme sportspeople happily outrunning an avalanche or blithely bungee-jumping into the Grand Canyon. Brett Nunn tells the story of people who would never try to cheat death -- a mother and daughter whose playful tobogganing down a winter hillside plunges them into the terror of a treacherous crevasse; a carefree backpacker whose world suddenly changes when he realizes he's lost in a vast wilderness; two buddies whose fun day of snowmobiling becomes a nightmare when they're suddenly pursued by an avalanche. These stories lay bare the humanity and emotions of people on the edge of disaster and remind the reader of nature's sometimes lethal power.

From Publishers Weekly Nunn's third-person recounting of others' real-life scrapes with death in the great outdoors will make even seasoned adventurers think twice before testing Mother Nature's limits. Nunn, a contributor to Audubon, compiles 20 tales of outdoor recreation gone wrong in his native, northwestern corner of the U.S. Activities from snowmobiling to surfing have disastrous consequences for their enthusiast perpetrators, but there's good news: as revealed by the book's subtitle, these are survivor's tales. Everyone gets rescued in the nick of time, thanks to well-coordinated displays of individual grace and rescue patrol heroism. "Sheer luck and the selfless courage of strangers are all that stood between them and death on that day," ends the chapter "Swallowed Up," which tells the story of a mother and daughter whose impromptu sledding adventure leads to a horrible accident. While it's a relief to know that everyone ends up more or less okay, it also takes the suspense out of reading the stories. By the fourth one, they begin to feel formulaic, despite their varied topographical and adventuresome elements. The crisis points and potential for resolution are clear by the second page of each chapter: the stakes are laid out and since the ultimate outcome is known, they're not even all that high. There's nothing inherently wrong with front-loading the action and accelerating the drama like this, but when the end of each story is expected, it makes for a repetitive, if not cliched, work. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Geologist-turned-writer Brett Nunn is a regular contributor to national newspapers and magazines including Audubon. He lives in Port Townsend, WA.