

How to Stay Alive in the Woods: A Complete Guide to Food, Shelter and Self-Preservation Anywhere

Bradford Angier

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A practical, readable and indispensable guide for anyone venturing into the wilderness, this is a book that should be in every survival kit. Broken down into four essential sections, Sustenance, Warmth, Orientation and Safety, this enlightening manual reveals how to catch game without a gun, what plants to eat (full-color illustrations of these make identification simple), how to build a warm shelter, make clothing, protect yourself and signal for help. Detailed illustrations and expanded instructions offer crucial information at a glance, making *How to Stay Alive in the Woods* truly a lifesaver.

How to Stay Alive in the Woods: A Complete Guide to Food, Shelter and Self-Preservation Anywhere Details

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From Reader Review How to Stay Alive in the Woods: A Complete Guide to Food, Shelter and Self-Preservation Anywhere for online ebook

Dave says

A classic survival book by a skilled woodsman, but the main charm of the book for me is the wacky, roundabout syntax. Like this example about surviving on beavers: "If you have a gun and enough time at your disposal to wait for a sure shot, an often productive campaign is to steal to a concealed vantage on the downward side of a beaver pond."

Will Marshall says

I have owned a copy of this book since I was about 12 years old, and have read it cover-to-cover countless times. How to Stay Alive in the Woods is perhaps on of the most comprehensive and best-explained survival books available. The book was obviously written in a different age, which adds a certain charm - and some decidedly non-p.c. moments - to the narration.

If you spend any significant amount of time camping away from the daily conveniences of modern society, if you are planning a trip into the wilderness, or if you are just trying to figure out how you can survive the complete and total end of civilization, you will find 'How to Stay Alive in the Woods' to be a fantastic reference and a better teacher.

Noah Green says

I found this at the Goodwill recently. I am learning much about skinning frogs and porcupines for sustenance.

Melissa says

I almost got this five years ago, until I found the USAF Survival Handbook, could only afford one and made a decision.

I'm glad I got this one now, it was a good read, but it isn't replacing my USAF Survival Handbook in my camping/hiking bag.

Jen says

Better than the Bible for a sense of security and cure for insomnia. Perfect present for all those counting the days until Doomsday.

Candace | Evianrei says

How to Stay Alive in the Woods ... was a thorough and pleasantly blunt (which it needs to be) survival guide for those who wish to learn vital methods and techniques for survival in the wilderness.

I learned quite a bit while reading this book, and it has detailed illustrations of following, and much *much* more: snares, knot types, and shelter construction. I plan on getting a physical copy of this book to put in my husband and I's survival kit as soon as possible.

As for the rating, there are a few reasons this book did not get five stars from me. The reasons being:

- There were a few typos or miss-spellings in this book. That was something I was willing to forgive being that it was easy enough to tell what word they were going for, but added on with the other issues I had, I couldn't leave this out.
- Referring to snakes as 'Poisonous' rather than 'Venomous'. I know this is strictly a definition / diction issue, and that both are technically deadly or harmful, but it bothered me nonetheless. When regarding snakes the section titles them as 'Poisonous Snake Bites', and then mentions 'removing poison', but near the end *then* refers to it as venom. Consistency was lost there, but at least there was a correction in the final part.
- A lack of things I found to be important. **I definitely am not expert on survival**, but there are things I have learned while living in Maine and hiking while there that I think this book missed. I will list and explain what should have been added to the book, below.

How to set up a Bear Bag, and Why.

You may have food or some attractive smelling items (to a bear) on your person or in your camp. Knowing how to secure a bear bag to prevent your camp being ransacked is an important skill!

How to deal with leeches, and how to tell stagnant water from non-stagnant water.

This may seem obvious, but when writing a book about survival, you should assume the person reading the book *knows nothing* on the subject matter. Better to see the information and say 'oh, I already know this, I can skip this chapter', than leave it out entirely. Leeches love stagnant water, stagnant water being *still or non-moving water, typically warm/hot*. While I am not a survival expert, and more research should be done by the reader (or the author whom wishes to write a survival book), I have been taught that leeches should be left alone until finished, simply because causing the leech stress could cause it to vomit harmful bacteria into your bloodstream. Best to avoid them entirely if it can be done. They typically look like leaves sunken in the water, but can be seen moving much unlike a leaf if they detect prey.

Advice on how to deal with 'leavings' while surviving in the wilderness. (How to make a cat hole)

It makes sense to mention that these should be far from camp, buried, and not uphill from said campsite should it rain or leak down. While hiking for a week I also learned that some women keep a bandana on their person for cleaning purposes (after urinating) that they sterilize by leaving it in the sun for several hours.

I'm sure there could be much more added to a survival guide, and that not *everything* perfectly advisable will be remembered and written down. But it is good to be *extra thorough*. As I said, I will be getting a copy of this survival guide for myself, but it would be good to supplement it with another survival guide just in case

something was missed. I would also recommend reading your guides ahead of time, just purchasing books and putting them in survival packs isn't enough, what if in an emergency you open the book and realize it leaves you wanting?

Patrick says

Dated, but I enjoyed learning about his experiences and how he wrote about them.

Martin Gibbs says

My dad left me this book when he passed and as I read it, I realize how he pulled off all of those wonderful survival skills when we were canoeing deep in Canada.

This book is wonderful, the advice is valid and it works. I have a lot of Angier's other books and they are just as good; this man knows his stuff and knows how to survive without cell phones, ipads, or electricity.

My copy has a ton of scribbled notes from dad, which verify and confirm that Angier knew what he was talking about.

Megan says

Worth it.

Justin says

Excellent survival manual (it's hard to imagine a better one, though I am not well read in this area). I am not sure how useful it will be outside of survival though (unless you regularly camp). My only negative is that at least one of the survival foods was shown without it's negatives. Dock is high in oxalates and I wouldn't recommend it if there is a grocery store around.

Warren says

I enjoyed this book and it covers a broad range of topics pretty well. However, like many "wilderness guide books", it's missing some of the fine details. I'd definitely recommend this book, but I would highly suggest finding an edible plants guide for your region. I would also remind you that reading and doing are very different, so if you want to learn to use these skills (the basic traps and fire making techniques, in particular), practice them!

Pat Gibbons says

this book saved my life at least three times

The Ether says

I can't imagine a better survival guide than this book. It's well written, concise, and summarizes things really well. Most of the tidbits of information are presented in 5 or fewer paragraphs. It would take a lot of readings to retain even half of the knowledge present in this book. I only really found a couple of issues in this book: It could have eliminated a couple of illustrations that didn't present knowledge (I'm talking to you, wolf picture!) and could have included a few that needed them because words weren't sufficient (skinning things, making some things). Also, the author died in 1997, and I'm sure this book is much older than that. I'd love to see an updated version. Finally, the section that talked about snake bites talks about sucking the poison out. Is that still a thing?

PROS: Tiny, concise sections that focus very specifically on the subject at hand (by extension, this means lots of natural stopping points!); all-encompassing, other than living in a cave for an extended time or being trapped on a raft in the ocean, there is NOTHING not covered here; obviously this guy knows his stuff because he's been through it - that adds a lot of credibility to it.

CONS: The sections I mention in the review above; towards the end, he mentions making room for this book when you travel, which is funny and cute, but then he does it several more times and it sounds a little ostentatious; we need an updated version - this came out before cell phones and WELL before smart phones and so a few things feel dated in here.

Still, an excellent book.

Maureen says

Main takeaways:

Saltwater is safe to drink if you freeze it for a year first

Porcupines are smarter eating than trout, cause they're dumb/more caloric

You should definitely own 2 copies of this book, one on your person at all times -just in case-

Snowshoes are easy to make, just make sure you bring your waterproof canvas mackinaw and a bunch of sewing supplies with you if you plan to get lost in the wilderness.

?

Geoff Balme says

I've had a copy for years and have referred to it off and on -- while I don't ever want to have to test any of what the book offers, there are certain comforts one can take from it in terms of survival. While it would be uncomfortable, it's not that hard! Angier is very "old school" optimistic and enjoyable to read.
