

Close Calls: The True Tales of Cougar Bob



By B. J. Campbell

Reviewed by Robert G. Hildahl

Close Calls: The True Tales of Cougar Bob is a very enjoyable group of short stories about the life and hard times of Cougar Bob. The book starts out with stories of his life in high school, and then in the navy as a young man with polio.

After returning home from the navy, he gets on with his life and has many new adventures, most of which, I would not attempt myself.

Campbell is a very talented writer, and after I read about each new adventure, I always wondered--What will Bob try next?

Reviewed by James R. Buchanan

“Determination!” *Close Calls: The True Tales of Cougar Bob* is a “way of life” story, lived out by a man of great courage and determination, overcoming all obstacles to excel in his ever adventuresome spirit. Cougar Bob, a “man’s man” has lived the life that most men only dream of and lived to tell about it!

Reviewed by Forrest Burgess

“*Close Calls* is close to perfection!” This charming tale is full of the adventures of a true western character. Bob Campbell alias “Cougar Bob” is one of those bigger than life individuals that we seem to grow out here in the mountains of Idaho and Montana the “real west”. His numerous experiences and close calls

provide the reader with an honest and light hearted view of living in the great northwest.

Although some of the exploits may ring a bit exaggerated the essence of the stories are essentially true and full of fun. . Well written and with a tongue in cheek playfulness, this book is a joy to read. Obviously a labor of love, this story is about a unique individual whose life-long challenges and exploits in the wilderness areas of the inland northwest provide the reader a close-up of the strength of character and resourcefulness that living and hunting in the wilds of Idaho and Montana require.

You will not be disappointed with this book.

Reviewed by G. T. Rees

Some great stories about north Idaho and the adventures of Cougar Bob. Funny and some great history of the region.

Reviewed by Mary E. Trimble "Author"

"5.0 out of 5 stars. A perfect read for outdoor and wilderness enthusiasts!" Robert L. Campbell, aka Cougar Bob comes to vivid life as his wife, B. J. Campbell relates colorful stories beginning from his childhood on through his senior years. Written in first person, the book is chock-full of colorful descriptions of outdoor adventures, hunting, trapping, sometimes for sustenance, sometimes to save farm stock, often for hire when wildlife stalks too close to civilization.

As a boy, Bob loved to run-he could run for miles. He ran for the love of running. He ran nine miles to catch the school bus in rural Idaho. He ran for survival. He ran for play. While in the Navy, he contracted polio and, for most people, that would have been the end of running. But not for Bob. As soon as he could he was up and struggling to walk. He graduated to walking with leg braces and eventually managed without the braces. Although continuing to be an active outdoorsman, he still suffers from the pain of post-polio syndrome.

Interspersed with the chapters, each of which tells a story, are excerpts from The Cougar Bob Review, an annual newsletter that "captures the hunter, trapper and straight shooter's endless supply of stories that happens because he is himself." Also included throughout the book are clips of newspaper articles. One such article tells of the state Fish and Game Department hiring Cougar Bob to hunt down a cougar, known as the Bayview cat, who was blamed for killing 6 horses, 8 goats, 3 sheep, 7 farm dogs and stalking children at the school bus stop.

All of the stories in the book are true and are told in Cougar Bob's voice, with attitude. It's a book full of humor, yet awe inspiring in the courage of one man

who conquers threats, dangers, and his own health issues to solve problems at hand.

Animal activists might have issues with some of the stories A fair amount of the hunting is done for the meat, or simply for the sport. On the other hand, authorities hire Cougar Bob to trap wildlife that threaten the safety of people or their property. When practical, the trapper will displace the animal, but when necessary, he will kill it. That might seem harsh to some, but it's reality to many.

I enjoyed *Close Calls: The True Tales of Cougar Bob*. I love a good story and this book captures the essence of rugged wilderness and its sometimes eccentric occupant, outdoorsman extraordinaire, Cougar Bob Campbell. For more about author B.J. Campbell and her husband, Bob Campbell, visit www.cougarbob.com

Reviewed by Tiffani Harvey

It's good, but requires a strong stomach! Not for the faint hearted.



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