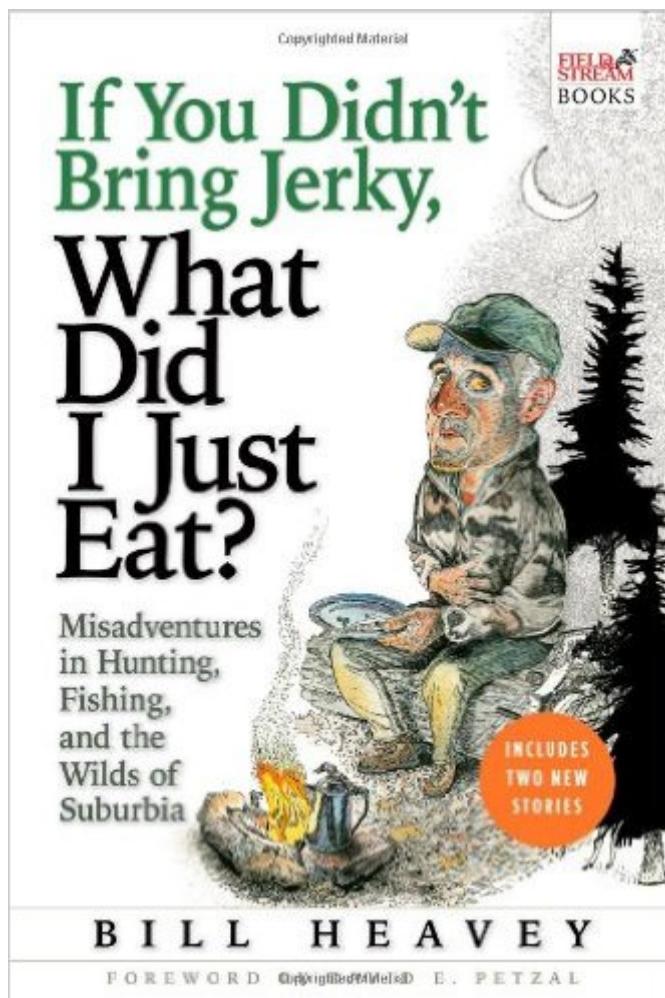


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# If You Didn't Bring Jerky, What Did I Just Eat: Misadventures In Hunting, Fishing, And The Wilds Of Suburbia



## **Synopsis**

Whether he is accidentally cooking his brain with hand warmers or yanking his lure away from a trophy fish just before it takes the bait, Bill Heavey can do no right. For almost a decade, he has chronicled his incompetence on the back page of *Field & Stream*, where his hilarious dispatches about life as a hapless outdoorsman who lives in suburbia have earned him legions of fans. But Heavey is more than a humorist. The stories in this book range from amusing tales of a modern dad struggling to navigate the finer points of parenting and married life to longer and more serious narratives that involve travel, adventure, and tragedy. No matter what he's writing about, Heavey is a master of blending humor and pathos; and wide-ranging outdoor enthusiasms; into a poignant and potent stew.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Three cheers for Heavey's new book "If you didn't bring Jerky, What did I just eat?" I have read his stories in *Field and stream* for years and love to flip to the back of the magazine to see what he's been up to. This book is a collection of his stories and it makes the book hard to put down. The way he relates to the average Joe in his trials and errors is what makes this book an instant classic that I will never part with. I think this book will appeal to more than just the *Field and Stream* faithful and is worth taking the chance on if you love the outdoors. Definetly worth a look.

I am currently editing a book of fishing stories that will be published in late 2008, I've read about 20 books on fishing in the last six months as part of my editing job. Bill Heavey's book has many things

going for it. The writing is economical, clear and deftly funny, and each story is its own adventure. For example: one explores the absurdities of ice fishing, another details the Cuban version of the Bass Masters national tournament, and another the authors frustrations of getting skunked on a fishing trip in Mongolia. The stories in this book tend to be short (2-3 pages). You can usually finish one before your spouse catches on that you are reading and available to be interrupted. While I am not a fan of hunting stories, I really enjoyed the ones he presents in this book, he has a way of tying hunting and fishing back to his wife and daughter, back to important, ironic, tragic, and personal moments in life. These are the kind of stories that you read and find yourself repeating to your friends. They stuck with me and I enjoy carrying them through my days.

Don't read this in bed unless you want to get kicked out for keeping your wife awake due to constantly laughing outloud uncontrollably! I thoroughly enjoyed reading these stories, and highly recommend it for anyone who has ever been hunting or fishing.

A great book for the majority of hunter, fisherpeople who don't always shoot, catch, find record breaking game, or any at all. He has a humor style that I really enjoy. He also writes from the heart about some gut wrenching personal experiences. Most of the material is taken from his Field and Stream writings but is well compiled. Written from the viewpoint of a middle aged man living in suburbia who is learning to hunt and fish and knows that it isn't always easy. I would recommend this book for husbands, dads and every other average outdoors man or Woman who enjoy the chase.

It's been a long time since a book brought tears of laughter to my eyes but Bill's book did just that. He is an example of all of us, if we would be honest enough to admit it that is. When I read about his bowhunting in bedroom slippers it really hit home, I made it to the driveway once wearing mine. I would recommend this book to anyone who needs a laugh, but be prepared to read it once you begin you will not want to put it down. The only sad part about my experience was when the book came to an end; I sure hope Bill has another in the works.

I was a longtime reader of Patrick F. McManus books, and considered him the ultimate writer of hunting and fishing humor. When I discovered Bill Heavey's works I went in thinking that at best his work would be a lesser version of McManus. MAN WAS I WRONG!!! Bill is at least on even footing with Patrick, both struggling over who should be at the top of the mountain. While Patrick's writings

are more Western US based, Bill on the other hand brings something special that I can relate to with his stories of people, places, and adventures on and around the Potomac River. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND both of these authors anytime you're looking for some humorous reading that doesn't require deep analysis to understand the stories being delivered as if the reader were sitting around a campfire listening to someone with tremendous life experiences. I should just mention that having lead a "sheltered life", meaning I didn't discover the entertainment value of reading until later in life, I had never been introduced to either of these authors through their multitude of magazine article in "FIELD and STREAM", and other monthly publication for the fishing and hunting public. Too Bad - My Loss!

Going into this I was expecting a bunch of comical stories about hunting and fishing. While there were some pretty funny stories included, there were quite a few that I found to be downright sad. The author does tell some humorous stories about his trips afield, but he also tells some personal stories about his family and about some trips that ended pretty badly. This book is a nice reminder for those of us who struggle to balance everyday life with an outdoor life that we are not alone, and that - despite what the hunting & fishing shows would have you believe - the average outdoorsman experiences a much higher rate of failure than of success. But despite the failures, you have to be able to laugh it off and keep going whether it's hunting, fishing, or everyday life.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. As an avid subscriber to field and stream I love this man's column. I enjoy his humor and his life lessons. His connections with his father, his Ex-wife, children, and the healing he found nature after one of the worst experiences a human being can have are all experiences that create a bigger picture of Bill Heavey as more than a humorist. Yes Bill has a humorous way to look at things most of the time. He writes of experiences that create a full picture of his life, allowing us into intimate parts of his life that complete his outdoor experiences. sometimes as a fellow outdoors man and specifically in one case a parent. He yanks on my heart strings combining my love of the outdoors and my love for my children in a way I hope to never understand and brings a reader to their knees. When I'm out in nature, either hunting, hiking, or fishing I enjoy the solitude of being by myself and more importantly I enjoy the interactions with my own mind. The chance I get to puzzle through events, talk to myself, and process information and experiences some of them years old. I appreciate the way this guy's mind works and will definitely buy any more books he writes.

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