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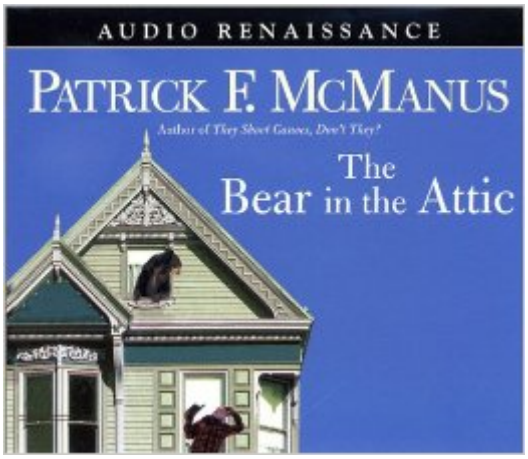
The Bear In The Attic



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Synopsis

The beloved humorist and bestselling author returns with his most riotous collection of essays to dateStarting with his trademark outdoorsman’s wit, Patrick F. McManus’s newest collection ponders the strange allure of the RV, the existential implications of being lost, the baffling tendency of animals to outsmart those who wish to hunt them, and the singular pleasure of doubling the size of every fish one doesn’t actually catch.Combining the curmudgeonly voice of Dave Barry and the innocent tone of Garrison Keillor, McManus brilliantly captures the everyday absurdities that comprise our existence. Alongside his humor, McManus’s inimitable vision consistently evokes a childlike wonder at the natural world. Even if we are running low on food, the compass is broken, and we are fairly certain we have just spotted a family of Sasquatches frolicking in the treetops, The Bear in the Attic makes the outdoors seem wildly irresistible.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you haven’t yet discovered Patrick F. McManus, aka "Mr. Outdoors," THE BEAR IN THE ATTIC is a fine place to start. And you don’t have to be a rugged outdoorsman to enjoy his tall tales of a lifetime of hunting, fishing, and camping. McManus has hunted turkeys in Georgia, doves in Alabama, geese in Minnesota, grouse in Michigan, deer in Montana, elk in Colorado, chuckars in Idaho, pheasants in Oregon, and quail in Washington. He writes about growing up poor in Blight, a little logging town in northern Idaho, and romping with his boyhood companions Retch Sweeney and Crazy Eddie Muldoon. He describes his wife Bun, who views his escapades with a jaundiced eye; his cousin Buck (only slightly smarter than celery); and his crotchety neighbor, the odiferous old

woodsman Rancid Crabtree, who considers it a nuisance to take clothes off at night just to put them back on again in the morning. Like Mark Twain's ROUGHING IT, in which Twain describes his six years of traveling the American West, in THE BEAR IN THE ATTIC McManus writes self-deprecatingly of his own ineptitude in the wilderness. The camp biscuits he cooks are so petrified that they will likely be found millennia from now in an archaeological dig. He seeks out the best fishing spots by consulting a fortune-teller and a crystal ball. He explains the delicate art of skittering, a concept with which all stream fishermen are familiar. And he describes the Toadus sumo, the celebrated wrestling toads of Blight County. In Alaska's Kenai River, McManus catches a sixty-pound trout (there is a singular pleasure in doubling the size of a fish one hasn't caught), and in South America he goes fly-fishing for piranha (the stew made from piranha heads was sumptuous, with just a tiny bite to it).

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