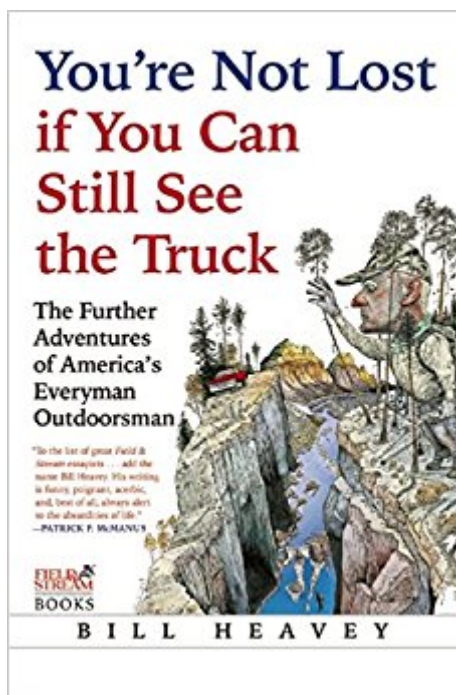




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You're Not Lost If You Can Still See The Truck: The Further Adventures Of America's Everyman Outdoorsman



Synopsis

Writing for magazines and newspapers for more than twenty years, including two decades at Field & Stream, Bill Heavey has become famous as America's everyman outdoorsman, unafraid to draw attention to his many and varied failures; from sporting French lavender deodorant to scaring a UPS man half to death while bowhunting in his front yard. Heavey's 2007 collection *If You Didn't Bring Jerky What Did I Just Eat?*, co-published with Field & Stream, the leading American outdoors magazine, was a resounding success that went into multiple hardcover printings. This new book, again co-published with Field & Stream, collects more of Heavey's top pieces from the magazine, as well as the best of his writing from the Washington Post and elsewhere. In this far-ranging read, Heavey's adventures include nearly freezing to death in Eastern Alaska, hunting ants in the urban jungles of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, and reconnecting to cherished memories of his grandfather through an inherited gun collection. With Heavey's trademark witty candor, *You're Not Lost if You Can Still See the Truck* traces a life lived outdoors through the good, the bad, and the downright hilarious.

Book Information

Hardcover: 304 pages

Publisher: Atlantic Monthly Press; 1st Edition edition (December 9, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0802123023

ISBN-13: 978-0802123022

Product Dimensions: 1 x 6.5 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 60 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #257,263 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #67 in *Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Sports* #113 in *Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Essays* #216 in *Books > Sports & Outdoors > Hunting & Fishing > Hunting*

Customer Reviews

"I had never heard of Bill Heavey until an editor asked me to review his latest collection of essays, most of which originally appeared in Field & Stream. Now, I can't imagine not reading his magazine columns, which are nominally about hunting and fishing, but are really about life. The title of his latest book alone is almost worth the price: *"You're Not Lost if You Can Still See the Truck."*" -- The

Advocate; Bill Heavey is one of the best magazine writers in America. No, he doesn't work for the New Yorker. He writes for Field & Stream, the popular journal for hunters and fishermen. Outdoor writing has a dim reputation as a soapbox for braggarts who crow about hooking a monster marlin or bagging a 24-point deer. But Mr. Heavey will have none of that. . . . Not since Jack London's stories has the stark danger of freezing lived so largely on the page. . . . As the tongue-in-cheek title of Mr. Heavey's collection suggests, this isn't always or even usually a serious book. Think Erma Bombeck in camo gear, and you'll get the sensibility of many of these pieces. • Wall Street Journal; A reader doesn't have to hunt or fish to appreciate Heavey's gift for storytelling. . . . The best essays, here, in fact, are heartbreakingly tender. . . . This is a hard book to classify, and that's its biggest strength. • Christian Science Monitor, 10 excellent books you might have missed in 2014 • Remarkably engaging and often hilarious. . . . Even those who have never baited a hook, assembled a tree stand, or sat in a duck blind will quickly find themselves drawn into Heavey's world with colorful and occasionally dangerous accounts of outdoor life. • Publishers Weekly (starred review); To the list of great Field & Stream essayists . . . add the name Bill Heavey. His writing is funny, poignant, acerbic, and best of all, always alert to the absurdities of life. • Patrick C. McManus; Bill Heavey is the man who put the lure in failure. He's my kind of fisherman, deer hunter, and wing shot. Which is to say the, um, very amateur kind. But who wants to hear about some braggart's cast and blast triumphs when you can hear about Bill catching a 14-inch largemouth bass on a pink Shakespeare Ladies' Spincast Combo? Even I have never done that. At least not sober. • P. J. O'Rourke; I've read Bill Heavey's page since the earliest days of my career. He's one of my all-time favorite writers. He's funny, fearless and always up for anything. If he could fish as well as he writes, I'd be in trouble. Fortunately, he can't. • Kevin VanDam, winningest professional bass angler of all time; [Heavey's] self-deprecating tales make us laugh. . . . [He] writes about the good times as well as the demons of his outdoor life. Some chapters are for soul-searching, not just fun and games. • Cleveland Plain Dealer; Humorous and thought-provoking essays on what it means to be an outdoorsman. . . . Readers will sense that it's possible to fail at your mission and still have a grand time if you don't take yourself too seriously. • Kirkus Reviews; Bill Heavey isn't just one of my favorite writers, though he is. He's also one of my heroes, proof that you can make an

adult living by being witty, insightful and spending an awful lot of time outdoors. That's the dream, and it's chronicled in this book. Buy three copies. Tucker Carlson; If you think of Bill Heavey as just a humorist, you'll be selling him short, but it's his intelligent, unforced humor that hits you first and stays with you the longest. John Gierach, author of *At the Grave of the Unknown Fisherman* and *All Fishermen Are Liars*; Bill Heavey is James Thurber in camouflage overalls, an unrelenting geyser of slapstick comedy and serrated wit. If he doesn't make you laugh, consult a coroner. Jonathan Miles, author of *Dear American Airlines*; Heavey examines an eclectic variety of topics, from hunting to fishing to relationships and even life's more profound mysteries. His perspective is that of a devoted, if not always expert, outdoorsman. If in doubt, he makes fun of himself. . . . Fellow outdoorspeople are the target audience, but the overall quality of the writing may draw even stay-at-homes. Booklist; Bill Heavey has become famous as America's everyman outdoorsman, unafraid to draw attention to his many and varied failures; from sporting French lavender deodorant to scaring a UPS man half to death while bowhunting in his front yard. DL-Online

In two decades at *Field & Stream*, the nation's biggest outdoor magazine, Bill Heavey has become America's everyman outdoorsman. Why? Because he believes that "hunting and fishing are too important and too much fun to be left to the experts." Because he believes that enthusiasm trumps skill. And because he was born with a skewed perspective and the inability to take anything--himself included--seriously. When he forgets his hat on a freezing winter hunt he improvises, cutting open the juice-stained plush golden retriever puppy his daughter left in the car and using that as head-gear. Trying to impress a lady, he flips his canoe and loses everything in the boat. When ants invade his home, he arms himself with a caulk gun and--over the course of an epic battle-- develops a grudging respect for his enemy. Heavey buys the ticket, takes the ride. And takes you along with him. He nearly freezes to death in 30-below cold after becoming lost while profiling a trapper in the Alaskan tundra. In Nicaragua, where he discovers an untapped tarpon paradise, he also finds beer that comes "with a napkin over the mouth of the bottle and a straw poked through the napkin, the local version of bug armor." Throughout, he is alive both to the ridiculousness and poignancy of life. *You're Not Lost if You Can Still See the Truck* collects more than sixty of Heavey's best stories from over two decades at *Field & Stream*, as well as work from the *Washington Post* and *Washingtonian*. Filled with Heavey's trademark wit and candor, *You're Not Lost if You Can Still See the Truck* is a far-ranging and enlightening read, tracing a life lived outdoors through the good, the

bad, and the downright hilarious.

I have been waiting for this book for quite some time. I love reading Bill Heavey's shorts in F&S. He has a way to relate to those of us who are less than perfect when it comes to the outdoor lifestyle. I have often described him as a mix between Douglas Adams (for a sort of dry wit) and Robin Williams (for his ability to bring a sense of warmth and humor to even the most tragic of situations). Another thing I absolutely love about all books that are collections of shorts ("Kerplunk!" being another example) is how you are not committed for long to any certain chapter (though some here are a bit longer than others). Perfect for the line in the DMV or any other situation that may have you wanting to occupy a few spare minutes (like ones that end in a flush). Some of the stories you cannot help but smile at, others you cannot help but get choked up after. In either case, they are stories that we are only human, and that we are not alone in that respect. Still, my only complaint is that I will probably have to wait another 5 years for the next one to come out. But still, well worth the wait.

Bill mixes a large helping of humor into the real life experiences of his oft-at-odds worlds - fatherhood and family, his love of the outdoors, fishing and hunting, suburban yuppies and the many more gnarly characters who inhabit his stories. Read this book. You'll laugh, cry and be transported to a better place. Bravo.

Bill Heavey has the ability to make the reader a part of the story. His successes and failures are everyman's. If you can't laugh at these stories, you probably need a sense of humor transplant. If you don't tear up after reading some of the stories, go read something else...

If you read Field and Stream you seen almost every story that is in the book. It was basically just all his articles compiled together with a few extras.

Far more than an outdoor humorist, Heavey diverges into other life-adventures in this book. Exploring the human condition with insight and humor. Has you laughing, but also crying, as he allows us to join him as he wanders the trails of life. Great reading.

Bill Heavey kept me engaged on every page of this book. I brought it camping all summer and read a few stories in between action. The stories are easy to relate to and will have you chuckling around

the campfire. I'm asking for another book of his for Christmas!

Bill Heavey is an excellent, funny, writer. This collection of his stories, like all of the others in this series, is a good, fast, read that will amuse you at the same time as it makes you think.

Another wonderful collection of Heavey Drivel... drivel I cannot possibly put down. Already awaiting the next one!

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