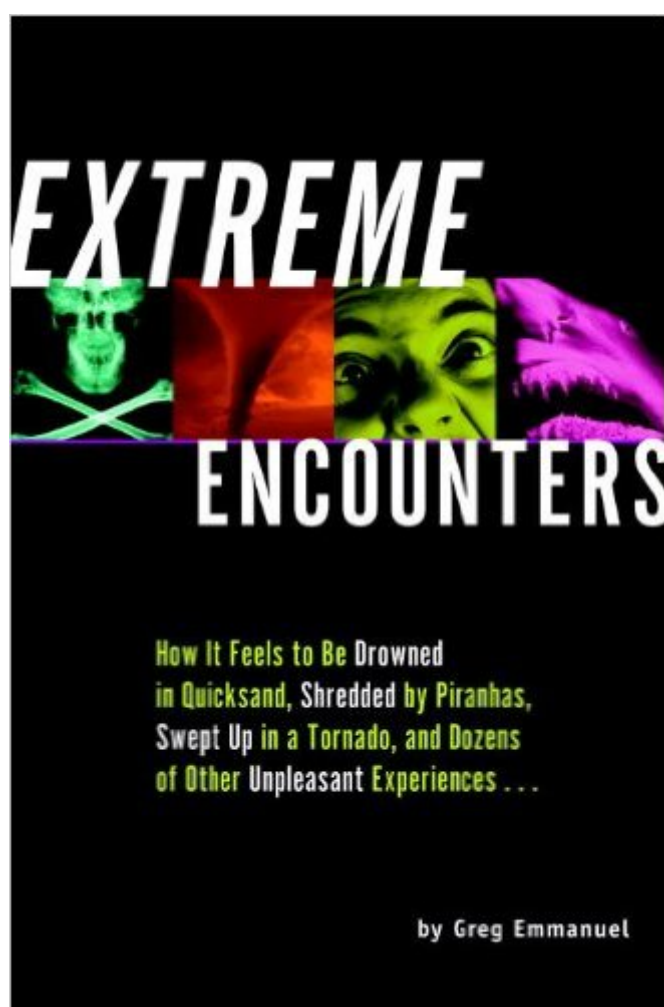


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Extreme Encounters: How It Feels To Be Drowned In Quicksand, Shredded By Piranhas, Swept Up In A Tornado, And Dozens Of Other Unpleasant Experiences...



Synopsis

Brace yourself. If you're the squeamish type, turn back now. If you're afraid of a little blood, read no further. But if you've ever wondered what it's like to be struck by lightning, swallowed by quicksand, or stung by a jellyfish, then fasten your seatbelt and get ready for a wild ride. Extreme Encounters offers blow-by-blow accounts of life's most dangerous experiences in thrilling "you-are-there" second person so you chill to the numbing effects of frostbite, you hear the ear-splitting roar of a tornado, and you feel the stomach-lurching drop of an elevator freefall. Full of harrowing adventure and surprising scientific insights, Extreme Encounters is a journey you'll never forget.

Book Information

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Quirk Books; First Edition edition (September 13, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1931686009

ISBN-13: 978-1931686006

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars See all reviews (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #726,509 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #270 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Lawyers & Criminals #288 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Exercise & Fitness > Walking #536 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Trivia & Fun Facts

Customer Reviews

In the forward of EXTREME ENCOUNTERS, author Greg Emmanuel indicates that the muse for his book came knocking after his own near death experience in a rollover auto accident on a New York parkway. Happily, my second-string Review Muse doesn't need such a drastic kick start. EXTREME ENCOUNTERS is all about situations and events that result in dire physical or mental injury, often ending in death. Its 40 chapters are divided into six sections: attacks by other species, outdoor misadventures, medical emergencies, crime and punishment, ordinary daily accidents, and in-harm's-way by choice. My favorite from each section was respectively: death by fire ants, abduction by tornado, death by Ebola, interrogation by "Chinese water torture", pain by hydrofluoric acid, and over Niagara Falls via barrel. The author can describe these vicarious thrills after having interviewed survivors and those otherwise knowledgeable about such things. He spices each

chapter with relevant facts. (Did you know that the Philippines is the only country besides the U.S. to have executed with the electric chair, or that 30,000 wounded limbs were amputated in the Union Army during the Civil War?) He brings the immediacy of the experience home to the reader by use of the second person. So, it's: "You land face first in the shallow water, putting more of your flesh into the feeding zone." (Piranha buffet) Or, "You try to angle your body so you can kick at the lid." (Buried alive) And, "Your foot kicks against the metal faucet, completing the circuit, and the current goes straight through your body." (Blow dryer into the tub) I'm giving **EXTREME ENCOUNTERS** 4 stars because of the novelty of the theme and the examples chosen to illustrate it. Otherwise, at 173 pages, it's simply a fast and absorbing read that allows one to move quickly on to the next book on the shelf.

So what does it feel like to die? According to author Greg Emmanuel, it all depends on how you go. 39 separate, horrible fates are chronicled in this book, and though not all of them end in death, they do all make your skin crawl. The categories include When Animals Attack, The Great Outdoors, Somebody Get a Doctor, Crime and Punishment, Everyday Mishaps, and Going to Extremes. Most of the scenarios only last for 2-3 pages which makes this a great book to pull out at parties and read aloud from, or take with you on vacation. The story style is conversational and informal, and the book length is a scant 175 pages, so it's a quick read all around. Yes, the stories are creepy and gross, and at times they'll make you laugh though you might feel a little guilty for doing so. This is a novel and fun book.

Just got it today and started reading it. Reads kind of like a soap opera tells you a story then stops and tells you another story then back to the original story. That's different i kinda like it, this is a fun read book very interesting and informative. I recommend this book, i'm enjoying it and glad I bought it. Another thing i like about this book is it's thick pages plus good-sized print. As i'm reading each and every story of this book with their different scenarios. Whats going through my mind is OMG and holy s***, it's that good of a book, to me anyway. It boils down to this, if you've lost consciousness you've pretty much had it. Unless you were lucky enough to survive the ordeal. Four of my favorite stories are Fire ants, Snake In The Grass, Piranha Fish, and Drowning. This really hits you in the gut and i don't mean in a sick way, makes you think maybe i shouldn't have done this. By that time it's usually too late for you.

It's weird to say that it was enjoyable to read a lighthearted book about terrible ways that people

have gone through pain, but it was. Beyond doing a lot of research, the author has a good sense of humor. I read it pretty quickly, but it also seems like it could be a good book to keep next to the toilet: you can read one or two of the descriptive vignettes when you go.

Just OK. This is a book which works fine in short bursts of reading (recommend for the porcelain home office). The author does a nice job of describing medically what the encounter does to your system to kill you. Attacked by sharks, you will bleed to death. And he goes on in detail to describe why and how soon bleeding to death kills a human. It's just that there's a sameness to each disaster, as if written from a formula. And there's a certain arch humor which reminds me of a tv adventure reality show script. The tornado description was a high point for me because there is more variety in the telling. All in all, just a pleasant little book with some interesting details, but not a gripping read by any means. However - how many of us want to spend two hours immersed in gory death & disaster? With very few survivors!

Quirky apropos of its publisher, Quirk Books, "Extreme Encounters" is formatted like one of those books to keep in the bathroom: the information is fascinating but not sufficiently in depth for anything more than morbid curiosity. Nevertheless, this is a fun little book to read, with anecdotes of demise as diverse as the effects of a shark attack to Civil War amputations. In a break from the subject matter (which mostly deal with death or dismemberment), author Greg Emmanuel also describes the experiences of sky diving and rocketing into space in a Gemini capsule. Emmanuel is definitely on to something with "Extreme Encounters". We are drawn by our fears toward descriptions of what scares us the most, and the author does describe some of the neurological processes that govern our behavior while under life-threatening stress, but the book is a little haphazard and mixed-one can envision a series of books on this topic, more in depth, with the non-lethal, purely experiential anecdotes such as sky diving filling a book of their own. A consistent theme in this book is our neurological responses to stress in life-threatening situations. Readers can get more information about these responses than Emmanuel offers with Laurence Gonzales' book "Deep Survival".

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