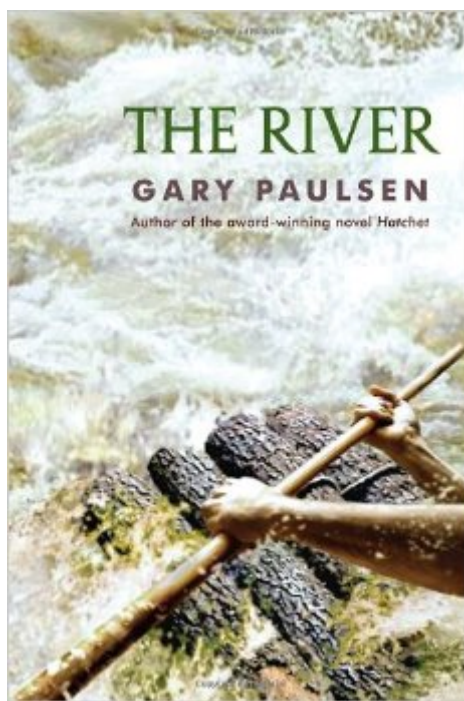


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# The River (A Hatchet Adventure)



## Synopsis

"We want you to do it again." These words, spoken to Brian Robeson, will change his life. Two years earlier, Brian was stranded alone in the wilderness for 54 days with nothing but a small hatchet. Yet he survived. Now the government wants him to go back into the wilderness so that astronauts and the military can learn the survival techniques that kept Brian alive. Soon the project backfires, though, leaving Brian with a wounded partner and a long river to navigate. His only hope is to build a raft and try to transport the injured man a hundred miles downstream to a trading post--if the map he has is accurate.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0960 (What's this?)

Series: A Hatchet Adventure

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Ember; Reprint edition (March 13, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0307929612

ISBN-13: 978-0307929617

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.3 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (508 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,020 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Self Esteem & Reliance](#) #24 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Survival Stories](#) #27 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Having read other books by Gary Paulsen like Tracker, Woodsong, Dogsong, The Monument, The Island, Night John, and the Hatchet series, ect, I realized that The River is not one of Paulsen's best work. The River seemed a little unrealistic and it had a very basic plot, Brian has to go back to the Woods, something goes wrong, he takes a trip down a river to a trading station and gets rescued. Its all very predictable. The part that seems unrealistic is the part where Derek gets struck by lightning and Brian happens not to have been hit, and the radio happens to break. Also building a

raft can be harder than Paulsen makes it sound. But to all Gary Paulsen fans, don't stop reading Gary Paulsen books just because this book has lowish ratings. Hatchet is the most wellknown book by Gary Paulsen and many who have read Hatchet haven't read many of the other great books by Gary Paulsen. I remember a few years ago when I was in fourth grade, The River was the second Gary Paulsen book I read, But I still decided to keep reading books by him. I read Night John when I was in fifth grade and it still is my favorite book by Gary Paulsen now. You may have noticed that I'm not Ralf Kiehl, I'm his daughter, a 13 year old kid, but I still really like to read Gary Paulsen.

The River by Gary Paulsen is one of my favorite books. I can't believe that Brian Robeson would actually go back into the wild! Brian will be going with a man from the U.S government. He is also going with lots of equipment. When they get at the lake, Brian decides he will leave all the stuff on the plane. All was fine until a giant thunderstorm comes. The man gets hit by one and is put into a coma. Brian will have to travel down a river 100 miles to a trading post. I liked this book because it had a ton of action and adventure. I hope you liked this book as much as I did! Glen, R.I

Review - The Brain Sagas by Gary Paulsen I have now finished all five of the Brian Sage books - Hatchet, The River, Brian's Winter, Brian's Return and The Hunt. and the epilogue Guts by Gary Paulsen. The Hatchet is one of three Newberry Awards that Gary Paulsen has earned. Basically the series is one story. The story of an teenage boy who at age 13 is left alone in the North Woods of Canada due to a pilot's fatal heart attack and plane wreck. The first book, The Hatchet tells of the guts, intelligence, patience and luck of a 13 year old boy with little wilderness experience in learning how to live and survive in a remote wilderness. We get a marvelous set of instructions in wilderness lore and living, and a glimpse into an intelligent mind that problem solves, learns and masters a strange world. At the end of this book Brian retrieves a signal radio from the submerged plane and is rescued. In Brian's Winter is an alternate ending. Brian is not rescued, but manages to learn more and survive into December. We see more of Brian's talents and abilities and new found skills. Here, Brian stumbles into a family of Cree Native Americans manning a trap line, who take him in. Brian flies out on the next supply plane. The Cree family consider him like one of the old people for Brian is dressed in skins he has captured and his arrows have stone points he has made himself. Yes, some of the story is very fortuitous for Brian, but that does not distract from the lessons of the wilderness and the lessons of life Brian has to learn to survive. The

River

is a book with Brian returning to the North Woods with a psychologist, Derek, of the military attempting to learn how to teach survival to the military. The man is not schooled in the wilderness at all, and Brian becomes the adult in charge of the adventure. Brian sends the 200 pounds of supplies back with the plane that flew them in, and commences to recreate the world he knew in the first two books. Half the book is a terrifying trip over 100 miles, 3+ days, down a river, its rapids, lakes and swamps, with Derek unconscious on a wilderness made raft. We get a first hand look at the guts necessary to achieve this. Again, they manage to make a trapper's cabin and are rescued. In Brian's Return we see Brian not fitting back into civilization, 15 - 16 year old's school and society. Brian has adjusted to the Wilderness, and that is the reality he much prefers. Brian takes along a few supplies and does very well. In The Hunt Brian is back in the North Woods learning more woods lore and ways. By now he is nearly an expert. Brian finds an old man, Billy, in his camp one evening. Billy and Brian share a mutual evening of silent communication and while few words are exchanged, Brian gains medicine. In respect, Billy, leaving camp very early before Brian is awake, leaves an amulet of white tail deer fur and crow's feathers for Brian. Brian recognizes the significance of this and immediately hangs it around his neck. Shortly thereafter, Brian and a wounded dog find each other. It turns out the dog belonged to the Cree Family Brian had met in Brian's Winter. Unfortunately, a bear had devastated the cabin and family of the Cree family, killing two members of that family. Brian rescues the wife, buries the dead, and deals with the stoic, bureaucratic officials. Once they leave, Brian hunts and in a wonderful scene - which I will not spoil - kills the bear. Guts is stories from Gary Paulsen's life, rough childhood, adventures in Minnesota, Canada, the American South West, Colorado. These episodes Gary wove into Brian's Story - a story beautifully and touchingly told.

Gary's knowledge and actual experiences gave him the insight to write the Brian Saga. Not only is the woods lore appropriately, accurately and well handled, but the changes that the North Woods induces in Brian are well followed. The books are at once a deep lesson in both survival and in life. We learn much about wilderness living. But we also are treated to the contrasts of life in the city and in the Wilderness. Due to a few violent scenes, this series should not be read by youth under 13 or so. Death is a part of life, and life is an endless living with what is there. It takes guts, perseverance, and patience, to achieve what Brian achieved, and that is the real message of these books. Life takes Real Guts, lots of perseverance, and lots of patience. The books read very well. The stories are well told. The reading level is at least 8th grade. And for those with an interest in Nature and the Wilderness, be it North Woods, SW desert or ocean, the lessons

apply. I found the reading to be extremely enjoyable, and the lessons deep and well taught without being preachy. A great series of books.

I respect Gary Paulsen as a writer and LOVE some of his work but this came across to me as, "How can I get another book out there without much effort". I felt like I knew how the book was going to end after getting just a few pages into it. I wasn't 100% right, but close enough. It's just a flat story to me, missing the thrill of some of his other stuff. I actually had a hard time making myself finish it. I say spend your money elsewhere in Gary's catalog of work... or if you are a die-hard fan, go ahead and grab this one to round out your collection and help Gary pay his bills, he deserves at least that much for his effort.

My 12 year old really likes this series which is great because he is not a big fan of books. Listening to them on tape is great. We loved the first one and the second one is just o.k. Kind of short. Judging by other reviews we agree that the second one is not as good as the first, but it had really good moments. Definately will check out the next in the series because they are good enough to continue on. I wouldn't hesitate to get this and recommend finishing the series, especially for a boy who doesn't like to read, it is almost a miricle series. Peter Coyote (forgive the spelling) is a fabulous reader, he gets 5 stars!

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