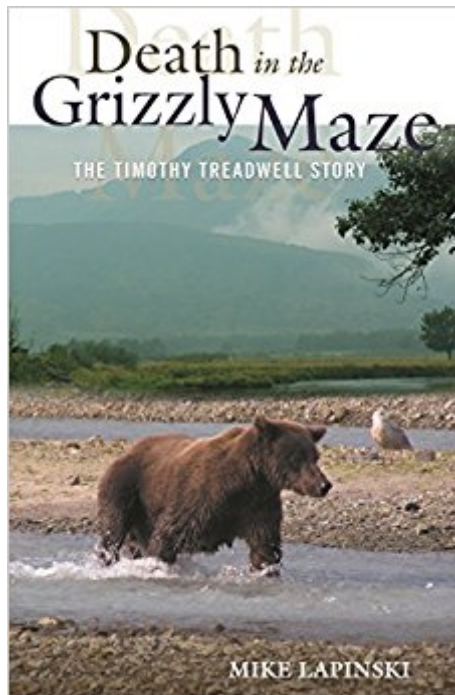




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Death In The Grizzly Maze: The Timothy Treadwell Story



Synopsis

On the afternoon of October 5, 2003, in Alaska's Katmai National Park, one or more brown bears killed and ate Timothy Treadwell and his girlfriend Amie Huguenard. The next day, park rangers killed the two bears that they assumed were responsible. This frightening and chilling story immediately captured worldwide media attention. Some bear experts felt that Treadwell's death was a matter of time, considering the unorthodox and highly questionable tactics he used in his life among the bears. Yet Timothy's surge in popularity, and his inglorious death, give rise to a plethora of questions. More than just a story about Treadwell, *Death in the Grizzly Maze* delves into the issues raised by the new breed of reckless wildlife celebrities and answers these questions: Was it a foregone conclusion that Timothy Treadwell had to die? Since Treadwell's actions were so obviously improper why didn't the National Park Service intervene? Did the bears have to die? How the actions of a few are affecting national park policy and promoting improper behavior when encountering wildlife are important issues for the future of wildlife conservation.

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Customer Reviews

On the afternoon of Sunday, October 5, 2003, in Alaska's Katmai National Park, one or more brown bears killed and ate Timothy Treadwell and his girlfriend, Amie Huguenard. The next day, park rangers investigating the site shot and killed two bears that threatened them; it was later determined that one of the bears had human flesh and clothing in its stomach. This chilling story immediately captured worldwide media attention, not only because of the horrific manner of Timothy and Amie's

deaths, but also because Timothy was a well-known wildlife celebrity. His films of close-up encounters with grizzly bears – he spent more than a dozen summers living with and videotaping giant bears in the Alaskan bush – were the subject of television talk shows, movies, and books. But his work was not without controversy, and some bear experts felt that Treadwell's fatal encounter was a tragedy waiting to happen – the result of the unorthodox tactics he used in his life among the bears. *Death in the Grizzly Maze* is the compelling account of Treadwell's intense life and dramatic death. Author Mike Lapinski chronicles Treadwell's rise from self-described alcoholic loser to popular grizzly-bear advocate. Lapinski explores how a waiter from Malibu, California, with no background in biology or wildlife science, came to be considered a bear expert. And he reveals the high cost of the current craze for wildlife celebrities – and what it means for the future of wildlife conservation.

Mike Lapinski is the author of eleven outdoor and nature books and hundreds of magazine articles. His photographs have appeared as inside and cover art in a variety of magazines and books. Mike is considered an expert on the use of bear pepper spray and often speaks on this subject, bears, and self-defense for nature lovers. He lives with his wife Aggie most of the year in Superior, Montana, close to grizzlies and grizzly country. While the bears are hibernating, Mike and Aggie live in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, where Mike writes about jaguars, ocelots, and other wilderness animals of the Southwest.

The other reviewers are quite correct - this volume is not as good as the Jans book. Jans develops Treadwell's character in much greater detail, although Lapinski does offer more information on Amie. I agree that the bipolar "diagnosis" of Treadwell really doesn't add much to the story. He was obviously a disturbed individual, and we really don't need a DSM analysis of his disturbance. All of that said, if you're interested in bears and/or Treadwell...and I'm mildly interested in Treadwell and passionately interested in bears...this book is an easy read and a valuable one. Yeah the bear spray endorsement could have been left out, but I found it interesting, and for me at least, it settled the question of just how effective something coming out of a spray can could be in foiling a bear attack. Reading that information made me wish I would have had bear spray with me when I've hiked in grizzly country and caused me to resolve that I won't go into those areas again without it. I have not read Treadwell's book although I probably should. I'm sure it's interesting, but the thing that holds me back is that I feel that, given Treadwell's kind of loose relationship with the truth, the reader needs to take his self-told story with a pretty critical eye. By the way, I checked Patagonia's web site, as

well as Grizzly People, and it appears that Patagonia no longer sponsors Grizzly People. With respect to Leonardo DiCaprio, it's difficult to tell. His web site doesn't mention the organization, although the Grizzly People site refers to sponsorship by DiCaprio's production company, Appian Way.

I'm very glad I wasn't dissuaded by some of the negative reviews of Lapinski's book on this site. I found it to be a valuable book on the bizarre, and strangely volatile, subject of Timothy Treadwell's death. Lapinski's is a calm, well-researched, and reasonable approach that balances Jans's (The Grizzly Maze: Timothy Treadwell's Fatal Obsession with Alaskan Bears) somewhat flashier style nicely. There are contradictions of fact and conjecture between these two excellent authors, but the two agree on the most important facts: that Treadwell endangered himself, his girlfriend, and his beloved bears by his risky actions, and that his claims of poaching at Katmai preserve were simply not true. Also, Lapinski's book provides valuable additional information about Amie Huguenard for those of us trying to form a comprehensive picture of these preventable deaths.

OK the author really dislikes Treadwell and goes after him for being mentally ill, a liar, a self-promoter, a person who really did not help bears but hurt them by spreading the wrong message that invited habituation and danger to the animals and a law breaker and loser. He frequently goes over the same objections again and again showing him (lapinski) to be mean-spirited. The book as well as Nick Jahn's The Grizzly Maze and the film Grizzly man all have the same shortcoming : filling in areas of Treadwell's life to give a better idea of what he did and who he was. Both books fail to give a good idea of what was going on in TT's life during the thirteen years he spent in the L A area. Was he an aspiring actor , if he was to what degree ? No mention of show business at all. Initially TT thought he might well die from a bear attack, but scant mention is made of the several women Treadwell took with him on his Alaskan trips (that is other than Annie). Did he come to believe his ability to stay alive over his first years made him virtually invulnerable and that his companions need not be afraid ? And what of the eight months a year when he was not in Alaska ? What did he do day to day ? How many schools did he visit, did he fill his time with other bear related activities or have massive down time ? TT was an animal lover, this is more than clear and his interaction with the bears was and is a one of a kind adventure, but I would have liked to have gotten a better idea of just what he really thought about what he was doing than just from TT's video footage , the books and the film.

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