



You're Not Lost if You Can Still See the Truck

By Bill Heavey



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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 enthusiasm trumps skill. 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 it as headgear. Trying to impress a lady, he flips his canoe and loses everything in the boat. Heavey takes you along with him as he nearly freezes to death in the 30-below cold of Alaska, and he also survives a divorce, plans deer hunts around his duties as a single dad, and defies a back doctor who tells him his tree-stand days may be coming to an end. Throughout, he is alive to both the ridiculousness and poignancy of life.

Collecting more than sixty of Heavey's best stories from *Field & Stream*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Washingtonian*, this far-ranging and enlightening volume traces a life lived outdoors through the good, the bad, and the downright hilarious.

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You're Not Lost if You Can Still See the Truck By Bill Heavey Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #205113 in Books
- Published on: 2015-12-18
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.20" h x .80" w x 5.40" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 288 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

“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**

From the Inside Flap

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.

From the Back Cover

"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 pink Shakespeare Ladies' Spincast Combo? Even I have never done that. At least not sober."--P. J. O'ROURKE

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--KEVIN VANDAM, winningest professional bass angler of all time

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--JOHN GIERACH, author of *At the Grave of the Unknown Fisherman* and *All Fishermen Are Liars*

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"The art of the story, a casualty of the era of Internet fixation, is a thing of beauty in Bill Heavey's voice."
--SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

"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*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Curtis Dugan:

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading routine give you lot of advantages. The advantages you got of course the knowledge the rest of the information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The details you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want get more knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want sense happy read one along with theme for entertaining like comic or novel. The actual *You're Not Lost if You Can Still See the Truck* is kind of e-book which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

Anna Raynor:

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