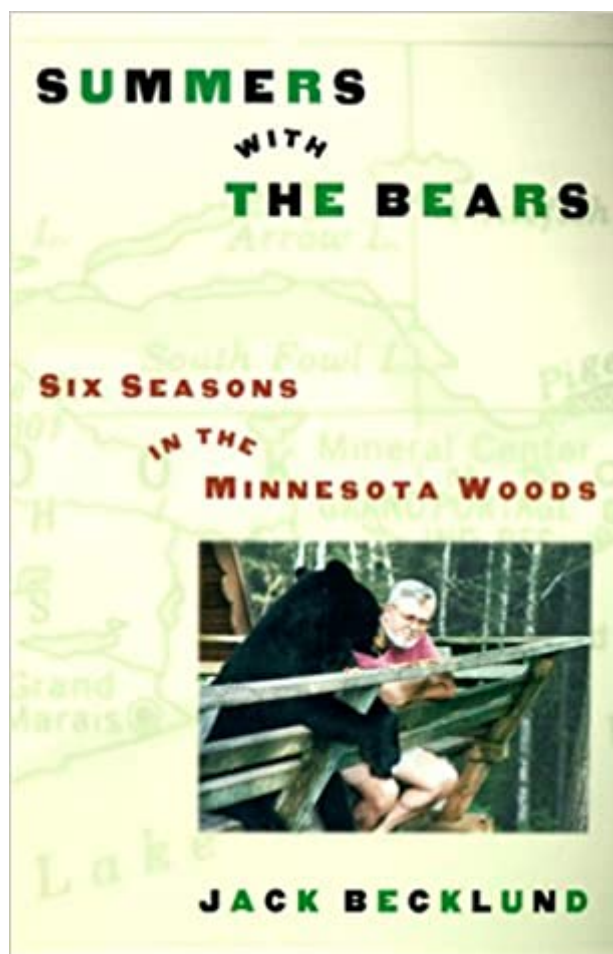


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Summers With The Bears: Six Seasons In The North Woods



Synopsis

In the animal-loving tradition of James Herriot, this delightful story, now in paperback, explores the relationship between man and one of nature's smartest, most interesting, and sensitive creatures—the black bear—and how this experience enriched two people's lives. Poignant and entertaining, and enhanced by photos that reveal a unique and amazing friendship, *Summers with the Bears* is a fascinating chronicle of what happens when humans and wild animals cross the boundaries into each other's world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A sharp eye and clear prose make Becklund's account of his and his wife's friendship with a group of black bears a delightful, heartwarming read. When Jack and Patti Becklund moved from Florida back to a creek-side A-frame in Jack's hometown of Grand Marais, Minn., they both subscribed to the philosophy that "bears were most useful when turned into bearskin rugs." But after they found a lonely yearling eating the sunflower seeds they had set out for the birds, their hearts were stolen. A few pans of seeds later, Patti made friends with the cub, naming her Little Bit, and soon the Becklunds had as many as 12 yearlings and adult bears tussling in the grass of their backyard (and eating up to 700 pounds of corn in a summer). Their yard had become a sanctuary from the area's hunters, a place to fatten up before the next winter. Jack's keen observations track the bears' growth and development over six summers, but the centerpiece is the unique friendship the Becklunds developed with Little Bit. Becklund's prose occasionally turns sentimental, but most

readers will forgive him for that: one day Little Bit "nuzzled Patti's hand, as she often did when she wanted to be hand-fed... Patti picked up the nuts... [but] because of very low blood pressure, she'd become dizzy and her hand was shaking. Little Bit saw her hand.... She lifted her large paw, cupped it beneath Patti's hand, and actually held her hand steady while gently picking the nuts up with her mouth." Stories like these would be hard to believe if they weren't corroborated by the 42 b&w photos that grace the text. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This is a delightful and warm tale of Becklund's experiences with black bears. When he and his wife moved from Florida to Minnesota, they found their home on Elbow Creek, near Grand Marais, to be deep in bear country. First attracted to the Becklunds' deck by the bird-feeding stations, Little Bit, a very young bear, befriended Jack and Patti for six seasons. They watched her mature and, over the seasons, return with her own young. Throughout these years, other bears also established relationships, but none so special as the one with Little Bit. Becklund does not advocate bears as pets and never tried to "tame" any of the bears that made their acquaintance?this message is clear. But also clear is the extraordinary opportunity the Becklunds were afforded to observe, learn about, understand, and cherish bears. When Little Bit did not return, they decided to stop putting out seeds, and eventually the bears ceased their visits. Illustrated with enchanting photos, this is an enjoyable read. For public libraries.?Nancy J. Moeckel, Miami Univ. Libs., Oxford, OHCopyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This is one of my favorite books. I've bought a number of them to give to friends. The story is well written and heart warming. Great for people of all ages.

I found this book on a list of recommended titles for people who want to learn more about American black bears...it was the first of several books I ordered to arrive. It took me two days to finish and I absolutely loved it. I'm new to bear study but I'm interested in studying biology with a special focus on ursinology and while this book is not really scientific, it provides a truly beautiful glimpse into the lives and habits of black bears as they relate to mankind in different ways.This book was touching, heartfelt, funny and informative. I am so happy I've added it to my growing library of bear literature and feel it's a must buy for anyone that likes, loves, or is interested in learning more about these delightful creatures. Enjoy!

I loved this book, it's a charming story of a couple who own a summer home and the wife, warned

not to feed the bears, does so and ends up with a real friendship in "Littlebit" who comes back year after year. I won't spoil the story by giving away too much, since it's a very quick read, but I can say, reading this sweet story made me cry, and it's a treasure to read.

I am so grateful for this special book. We are moving to bear country soon from Florida and this book warmed my heart. I won't feed the bears and will respect that they wandered the land before we purchased it and I will respect their beauty even more since reading this book. I love the relationship between the author & his wife and how the bears warmed up to the kindness that they projected. Their respect and awe of all of the animals is appreciated. I am grateful for this book & have bought several copies for my friends who have loved it as much as I did. Barb

Checked this book out of the local library. Loved it so much I had to get my own copy.

Fantastic book. Very well written so everyone will come to know bears as they are, gentle, loving creatures that react to situations just like we do. It shows how someone who was indifferent to bears comes to love them like family. Everyone wants to borrow my book and they all love it.

I have this book, and have spoken with Mr. Becklund personally. It is by far the BEST nature story I have ever read. Two friends of mine that WERE bear hunters quit hunting black bear after reading it. On a scale of 1 to 10, I have to give it a 10 plus!

This book is special to me because I am very familiar with the area and especially because my grandson now owns and lives in the very house where the bears were guests. The book is great.

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