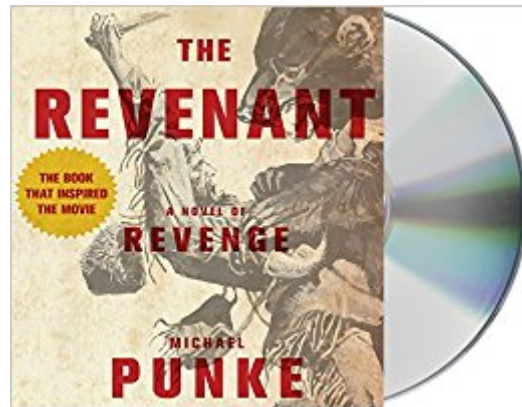


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The Revenant: A Novel Of Revenge



Synopsis

NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER A thrilling tale of betrayal and revenge set against the nineteenth-century American frontier, the astonishing story of real-life trapper and frontiersman Hugh Glass. The year is 1823, and the trappers of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company live a brutal frontier life. Hugh Glass is among the company's finest men, an experienced frontiersman and an expert tracker. But when a scouting mission puts him face-to-face with a grizzly bear, he is viciously mauled and not expected to survive. Two company men are dispatched to stay behind and tend to Glass before he dies. When the men abandon him instead, Glass is driven to survive by one desire: revenge. With shocking grit and determination, Glass sets out, crawling at first, across hundreds of miles of uncharted American frontier. Based on a true story, *The Revenant* is a remarkable tale of obsession, the human will stretched to its limits, and the lengths that one man will go to for retribution.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Based on a true incident of heroism in the history of the American West, this debut by a Washington, D.C., international trade attorney and former bureaucrat in the Clinton administration is an almost painfully gripping drama. A Philadelphia-born adventurer, frontiersman Hugh Glass goes to sea at age 16 and enjoys a charmed life, including several years under the flag of the pirate Jean Lafitte and almost a year as a prisoner of the Loup Pawnee Indians on the plains between the Platte and the Arkansas rivers. In 1822, at age 36, Glass escapes, finds his way to St. Louis and enters the employ of Capt. Andrew Henry, trapping along tributaries of the Missouri River. After surviving

months of hardship and Indian attack, he falls victim to a grizzly bear. His throat nearly ripped out, scalp hanging loose and deep slashing wounds to his back, shoulder and thigh, Glass appears to be mortally wounded. Initially, Captain Henry refuses to abandon him and has him carried along the Grand River. Unfortunately, the terrain soon makes transporting Glass impossible. Even though his death seems certain, Henry details two men, a fugitive mercenary, John Fitzgerald, and young Jim Bridger (who lived to become a frontier hero) to stand watch and bury him. After several days, Fitzgerald sights hostile Indians. Taking Glass's rifle and tossing Bridger his knife, Fitzgerald flees with Bridger, leaving Glass. Enraged at being left alone and defenseless, Glass survives against all odds and embarks on a 3,000-mile-long vengeful pursuit of his ignominious betrayers. Told in simple expository language, this is a spellbinding tale of heroism and obsessive retribution. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

• A superb revenge story...Punke has added considerably to our understanding of human endurance and of the men who pushed west in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark--a significant feat. • The Washington Post Book World • A captivating tale of a singular individual....Authenticity is exactly what *The Revenant* provides, in abundance. • The Denver Post • One of the great tales of the nineteenth-century West. • The Salt Lake Tribune

The word REVENANT is defined as "a person who returns, especially supposedly from the dead." There could be no better title for Michael Punke's high spirited western novel. In these pages, we discover historical fiction at its best. Though the book was published some years ago, it seems to be garnering more attention with a re-release, as well as anticipation of the movie *THE REVENANT* starring Leonardo DiCaprio, due out in January 2016. At any rate, the story centers around legendary "mountain man" Hugh Glass. The time period is the early 1820's, when traders and fur companies were searching out domains in the Rocky Mountains, and in the present day states of Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, and the Dakotas. It is also a time only 18 years removed from the return of Lewis and Clark from the Pacific and the triumphs of the Corps of Discovery. Word had spread throughout our young nation of the vast areas of lands where a fortune might be made through the hunting and trapping of animals. The lust for furs, hides, and pelts to propitiate European buyers played a major role in this westward expansion. Thus, endeavors like The Rocky Mountain Fur Company sprang into existence and vied with one another to gain strong footholds in prime furbearer sections of the enormous Missouri Territory. Often, financial backing was based out

of St. Louis, where teams of men were organized to venture up the Missouri River, as well as its tributaries. The book centers around one such team led by a Captain Henry and included such members as John Fitzgerald, Jim Bridger, and Hugh Glass. Along with surviving the harsh elements of the Wild, these men also had to defend themselves against hostile Indian tribes like the Arikara and the Blackfeet. In addition, there was great competition from the Spanish and French that added to the urgency of securing tracts of land rich for trapping. Much of what we know of these early "mountain men" is centered around both facts and legends. Hugh Glass, Jedediah Smith, and Jim Bridger were three of the first actual white men who ventured into the Rocky Mountains and beyond. In *THE REVENANT*, we are given an exciting glimpse into a very early and virgin American West. It is no secret that Hugh Glass was a central figure at the time, and he was indeed attacked by a grizzly bear and left for dead by his party. Punke does such a marvelous job of weaving fact and fiction together, and he elaborates on this merger at the novel's end. What I found most fascinating about this moving saga were the rich backgrounds we are given involving the histories of the major characters. We are treated to accounts not only of Glass, but also of Bridger, Fitzgerald, Henry, and the French voyageurs. The descriptions of the bear ordeal, of Glass's stoic determination, of the Indian attacks, and of survival in the brutal wilderness itself were absolutely compelling. Punke's knowledge and visceral prose make for story telling at its finest. If you enjoy films like *JEREMIAH JOHNSON* and books like *UNDAUNTED COURAGE* or *CROW KILLER*, I believe you will find *THE REVENANT* to be a splendid read that is well worth your time....

I wanted to read this book because I saw the trailer on the TV for the movie. And I do like history type movies. The story starts out with groups of men heading west because of the fur trade (mid 1800s). Yellowstone has been discovered as Coulter's Hell and Jim Bridger is still a young man. Hugh Glass joins one such group traveling up the Missouri. Hugh Glass and another member of the group go off hunting for meat and Hugh gets attacked by a bear. The leader has men in the group carry him and until they can no longer due to the time constraints. Leaving two people behind with Glass who hasn't died yet (Fitzgerad and Bridger), the group goes on. Fitzgerald gets antsy and decides before the Indians get him and Bridger, they leave, even though Glass hasn't died yet. They take his gun and knife, leaving the man without anything to survive with. Glass survives and decides to go after the two men who left him behind. This is his story of what happened afterward. The one thing that I didn't like about the story is that it kind of left you hanging of what happened to Glass and Fitzgerald in the end. The ending does have some closing with Bridger but of the other two not much is said. But it was an interesting read.

Very well written and great subject matter. While the movie is more entertaining and exciting, they're two different animals altogether -- Punke's novel is not only down-to-earth, it's rooted in actual history and breathes life into a bit of a lost era. Informative, yet also compelling. Punke creates a whole mess of interesting characters, and the time spent with each of them is much appreciated. He's drawing from real frontiersmen -- their adventures, yes, but also their flaws and virtues. The long and short of it is, I had a very hard time putting this one down. Because comparisons are inevitable -- yes, at the end of the day, I probably liked the movie better. Look, I know Punke is a great mind, I'm sure he could make a movie to outshine Romeo and Juliet if he set his mind to it. So, if you saw the movie and you're thinking "Wow, I bet they cut out a lot of action from the book -- I bet it's way grittier and bloodier!" You're not strictly speaking WRONG, but you might be disappointed, and that's not fair to Punke's excellent novel. If you thought "Wow, that was an interesting story, I'd love to hear it again -- maybe more like what actually happened, you know, the real story," then this is for you, and it's GRAND.

I'm really enjoying this book and I wasn't so sure I would, given what I thought it would be about. But it's written in such a way that it holds my interest well and appeals to me. Normally a book about fur trappers and the wilderness wouldn't sound like something I could get into. But the events that set it off and the beautifully descriptive writing about the landscape and people and action captured my interest fully. It has lots of excitement and near peril and danger to keep it exciting. And for me, a non-fiction lover the best part is that it's based on a true incident of heroism in the history of the American West back in 1822. A blend of a few different subjects that I am crazy about, the old American West, history, true stories and crime. It's about betrayal and revenge, but also so much more. The main character Hugh Glass was a real life fur trapper and frontiersman who led quite a life and I'll probably be looking for more to read on him.

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