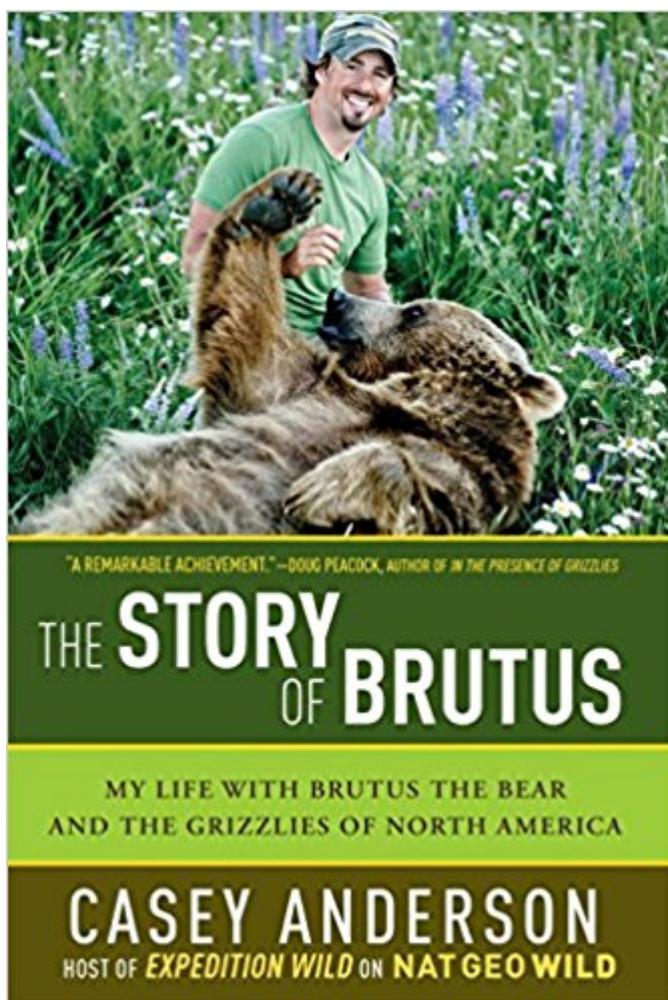


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# The Story Of Brutus: My Life With Brutus The Bear And The Grizzlies Of North America



## **Synopsis**

The heart-warming story of the incredible friendship between National Geographic star Casey Anderson and an 800-pound grizzly bear named Brutus. Casey Anderson, the host of National Geographic's *Expedition Grizzly*, met a month-old bear cub in a wildlife preserve in 2002, whom he affectionately named Brutus. Little Brutus was destined to remain in captivity or, more likely, even euthanized due to overpopulation at the preserve. Anderson, already an expert in animal rescue and rehabilitation, just could not let that happen to Brutus, who looked like a "fuzzy Twinkie." From the beginning it was clear something special existed between the two. And so, Anderson built the Montana grizzly encounter in Bozeman, Montana, especially for Brutus, so that he, and others like him, could grow up "being a bear." And so the love story began. When together, Anderson and Brutus will wrestle, swim, play, and continue to act as advocates for grizzly protection and education, be it through documentaries like *Expedition Grizzly*, appearances on Oprah or Good Morning America, or in this inspiring book, which promises to be an intimate look into Anderson's relationship with Brutus and a call to action to protect these glorious animals and the natural world they live in. The Story of Brutus proves that love and friendship knows no bounds and that every care must be taken to protect one of nature's noblest creatures. 50 full-color photographs

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

There's no denying Anderson's enthusiasm for--and empathy with--the Montana grizzly bears to which he has dedicated his life. An animal rescue and rehabilitation expert and host of National

Geographic's Expedition series, the author connected with the natural world as a young boy on wilderness treks with his mountain man father, honing tracking skills and developing an intuitive sense of how to react in encounters with the likes of snakes, bears, mountain lions, and wolves. In his 20s he adopted a grizzly bear cub he named Brutus, who provides no shortage of sweet and scary anecdotes. The author refutes "bearanoia"--man's unfounded fear, fueled by ignorance and hysteria, of a generally "solitary, shy creature" that would rather not attack humans. The book's plea for coexistence with the wilderness is both emotionally heartfelt and factually fascinating, but clumsy prose hobbles the fervent message. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Anderson, host of National Geographic's Expedition television series, began his wildlife education at age 5 by catching grasshoppers and befriending muskrats. By the age of 26, he was an experienced wildlife curator eager to save a surplus grizzly cub named Brutus from euthanization by raising the cub in his home. Although Brutus now weighs more than 800 pounds and lives in a wild-animal park, Anderson is still the grizzly's close buddy, training him for educational programs and television shows. In this quick-reading memoir, Anderson recounts eight happy years with Brutus and relates his concerned observations about bears in the wild. Unlike Jim Cole, author of *Blindsided* (2010), Anderson has never been seriously injured by a bear despite the risks that he takes. "Don't do this at home" is a frequent reminder in this entertaining book. --Rick Roche --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The writing could have been more focused and polished, but that's not what the appeal of this book is anyway. The draw is the indescribable unique understanding that Casey Anderson has forged with bears in general and Brutus in particular, along with the often hilarious or touching anecdotes he has accumulated regarding life with a grizzly bear (ie being awakened by the rumblings of an ursine-canine fight in a trailer outside ...). The level of Casey's sacrifice and devotion to taking care of Brutus is reciprocated in turn by Brutus's amazing trust and love for his human "father" - Casey spares the reader neither the painful, messy, dangerous, hard realities of his choices, nor the deep fulfillment of a meaningful ongoing cross-species relationship with one of the most intelligent and majestic animals that we share this planet with. A memorable, realistic, gritty, and ultimately heartwarming read, and a call to action to save both human and grizzly lives with better mutual understanding.

I bought this book for my husband for Christmas, because he is a bear lover. So many people are afraid of bears because of their power and their mystique, and I do think these creatures deserve respect. They also deserve their habitat to live in and not be disturbed by well-meaning humans who want to feed them, and humans who wish them ill by only wanting to kill them. Brutus is a magnificent grizzly bear, who as a cub, started developing a relationship with the author of the book, Casey Anderson. Mr. Anderson does a great job in telling the story of how Brutus came to be so close to him. (Never should we humans forget that wild animals are not overgrown domesticated dogs or some kind of stuffed toy; but that simply means that we can admire and respect them in their natural setting without rabid fear setting in, and realizing that bear behavior and human behavior are very different). Be that as it may, I believe Mr. Anderson made the point very well that these two particular species, *Homo sapiens*, and *Ursus horribilis*, can live together on this planet alongside each other with respect and understanding. I honestly believe that it is our human brothers and sisters who need to make the effort to learn about and understand these creatures to prevent the recurrence of the tragedy which almost brought them to extinction. I love this book, and I have the utmost respect for Mr. Anderson and his Montana Grizzly Encounter. We need more humans like him on this planet who have positive feelings for animals without being sappy and sentimental about them. I recommend this book very, very highly!

I have read many books over the years, and this one ranks up there at the very top! The Story of Brutus is one of a kind because it involves a very passionate, dedicated, motivated, and educated individual, Casey Anderson, as he shares genuine first hand accounts of his life. With his fantastic writing style that can appeal to all age groups and individuals with many backgrounds (even if your field doesn't happen to be environmental...or working grizzly bears), his writing makes you feel as though you are experiencing his journeys as well. Casey tells about the stories of Brutus and his many bears friends, along with providing all readers with a vast amount of knowledge that can be used in educating others about grizzly bear habitat protection for the future. This book should certainly be used in classrooms across the country, as educating students about the environment and this important subject of grizzly bear habitat protection could not have been portrayed any better than what information is provided from Casey. If there were more individuals like Casey, this world would be a much better place.

What a wonderful book! I became a fan of Casey's after watching his show "Expedition Wild" on Nat Geo Wild, and his relationship with his best friend Brutus, captivated me. By the way, Brutus is a

900 lb. grizzly bear, just in case you didn't catch that from the cover of the book. ;) The very first part of the book tells the story of how Casey adopted his "son". It is the perfect preface to the rest of the book as it exhibits Casey's very personal and emotional dedication and attachment to animals. This one experience is the ideal way to say, "Hello, here is my life, and this is what I'm about." Not only does it focus on Casey's relationship with Brutus, but it delves into many other animal experiences that he's had in his past that have shaped him into who he is today. Without these experiences, his relationship with Brutus would never be the same -- or might not have happened at all. Impressively, he still eagerly ventures out into the mountains of Montana and works with all sorts of animals even though some of these experiences have been far less than positive. You'll know what I mean when you read about one unhappy bear and again when you learn how his buddy Simba the mountain lion had a little unfriendly moment. Let's just say that over the years, Casey has amassed quite a collection of scars! Casey also sets forth his animal philosophy and explains his views on how humans and animals should coexist, particularly when humans cross over the boundaries from our cities and towns into the wilderness (better phrased the cities and towns of the animal species). This book gave a very well-rounded presentation of how interconnected humans are with all of the other species in the world and how important it is to maintain these relationships and to respect them. One particular story that really struck me was when he was hiking on a rather brisk day and found that a rattlesnake had curled up on his foot! Now, 99.9999% of the population would see that as a major freak-out moment. But his mentality immediately went to the snake's needs and what it was seeking: warmth. Casey's point of view introduced a previously unexplored way of viewing the animal world. Very educational, very entertaining, and very enlightening.

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