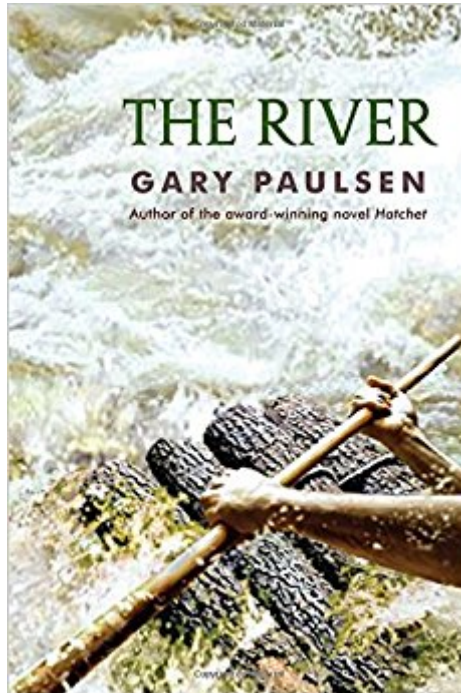




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# The River (A Hatchet Adventure)



## Synopsis

The government sends Brian back to the Canadian wilderness in this beloved follow-up to the award-winning classic *Hatchet* from three-time Newbery Honor-winning author Gary Paulsen!   
Two years after Brian Robeson survived fifty-four days alone in the Canadian wilderness, the government wants him to head back so they can learn what he did to stay alive. This time Derek Holtzer, a government psychologist, will accompany him. But a freak storm leaves Derek unconscious. Brian's only hope is to transport Derek a hundred miles down the river to a trading post. He's survived with only a hatchet before--now can Brian build a raft and navigate an unknown river?   
For the first time it's not only Brian's survival that's at stake. . .   
An IRA-CBC Children's Choice A Parents Magazine Best Book of the Year   
"Vividly written, a book that will, as intended, please the readers who hoped that Paulsen, like Brian, would do it again."  
• Kirkus Reviews  
Read all the *Hatchet* Adventures!  
Brian's Winter The River Brian's Return Brian's Hunt

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In a boxed review, PW praised the "terse, heart-stopping prose" of this follow-up to *Hatchet* : "The new adventure is as riveting as its predecessor . . . the psychological terrain of the sequel is fresh and distinct." Ages 10-14. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A sequel to the most popular of Paulsen's three Newbery Honor books (*Hatchet*, 1987), based on an unlikely premise-- government researchers want Brian to reenact his northwoods survival so that his strategies can be observed and taught to others. Derek, a young psychologist, and Brian are dropped off at another Canadian lake, near the first one, equipped only with knives and a radio that Derek has promised not to use except in a dire emergency. Everything goes all too smoothly until their camp is struck by lightning, zapping the radio and leaving Derek in a coma. Brian manages to float Derek 100 miles down a river to a trading post, thus saving his life. The lyrically described details of Brian's adventure-- building a fire, making a raft--are of most interest here; for all its graphically evoked perils (rapids, the craft's unwieldiness, exhaustion), the journey's successful outcome seems less in doubt than did the outcome of the compelling autobiographical wilderness experiences described in *Woodsong* (1990). In *Hatchet*, Brian discovered his own strength, adding depth, complexity, and tension to the story; here, that strength is a given--as he himself points out. Perfunctory in design but vividly written, a book that will, as intended, please the readers who hoped that Paulsen, like Brian, would "do it again." (Fiction. 11-14) -- Copyright ©1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

**THE RIVER** by Gary Paulsen.**STORY BRIEF:**This is the sequel to and should be read after "Hatchet." The River takes place a year later. In *Hatchet*, 13-year-old Brian survives for 54 days in the Canadian wilderness alone. The next summer the military hires Brian to do it again with one of them taking notes so they can train other people how to survive. Because it will help save lives, Brian agrees to do it. He and Derek fly to a different area in the Canadian wilderness. While there lightning strikes Derek causing a coma. The radio is also broken. Brian decides to build a raft to take them down the river to get help since Derek will die in a few days without water.**REVIEWER'S OPINION:**I loved *Hatchet*. This was enjoyable but not as good. I enjoy being with Brian as he thinks and acts in the survival environment. This book didn't have as many episodes or scenes with different animals and threats as the first book. In other words - not as many problems to solve and Brian didn't learn or grow as much as he did in the first book. So, not a lot happens here but I still liked it. The book is shorter than standard novels. The narrator Peter Coyote was excellent.**OTHER BOOKS:**The author wrote many books, but the *Hatchet* series consists of: 5 stars. *Hatchet* (read first) 5 stars. *Brian's Winter* (read second or third but I prefer second) 3 stars. *The River* (read second or third) 4 stars. *Brian's Return* 3 stars. *Brian's Hunt***DATA:**Unabridged audiobook length: 2 hrs and 31 mins. Narrator: Peter Coyote. Swearing language: none. Sexual content: none. Setting: current

day mostly the Canadian wilderness. Copyright: probably 1991. Genre: young adult adventure fiction.

This whole series is great for children. Our 5th grade grandson loves these by Paulsen and already to retread them.

My grandson is loving these books. Will continue to provide him with other sequels

Not quite as good as Hatchet, as the struggle to survive is contrived to begin with. Military experts want him to go thru a similar experience while being observed so they can figure out how he was able to survive. They need to know what about him helped him the first time. What he teaches them could help others who might be in similar situations. When things go wrong Brian has new problems to solve. He is responsible for another person who has been struck by lightning and is in a coma. There is less focus on how painful and consuming hunger can be. More focus on making critical decisions. How to get the injured man back to civilization, building a raft, learning how to navigate on the river. There are periods where Brian is exhausted because he is trying to get to the trading post as fast as possible. He falls asleep, dreams and hallucinates for portions of this excursion. Still a good story. We will look for the next one in this series.

My 12 year old really likes this series which is great because he is not a big fan of books. Listening to them on tape is great. We loved the first one and the second one is just o.k. Kind of short. Judging by other reviews we agree that the second one is not as good as the first, but it had really good moments. Definately will check out the next in the series because they are good enough to continue on. I wouldn't hesitate to get this and recommend finishing the series, especially for a boy who doesn't like to read, it is almost a miricle series. Peter Coyote (forgive the spelling) is a fabulous reader, he gets 5 stars!

I read this book to my fourth grade classes every year, along with Hatchet and Bryan's Winter. The classes love the series.

thank you. love this book.

Definitely enjoyed the book. I had it read within two days of purchasing. But as in most sequels it

wasn't as good as the original. In this book I was once again highly entertained by Brian's "adventure" (to quote Derek Holtzer) but sadly it seemed as if it was just a do over of the original book. "Brian gets stranded, gets beat up by everything in nature, adapts to it, something goes horribly wrong, Brian thinks he can't make it out alive and then gets rescued." Though it's definitely an interesting plot line it's not like reading it for the first time. However it's definitely a worthy sequel to the Hatchet Saga and I highly recommend to any Brian fans.

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