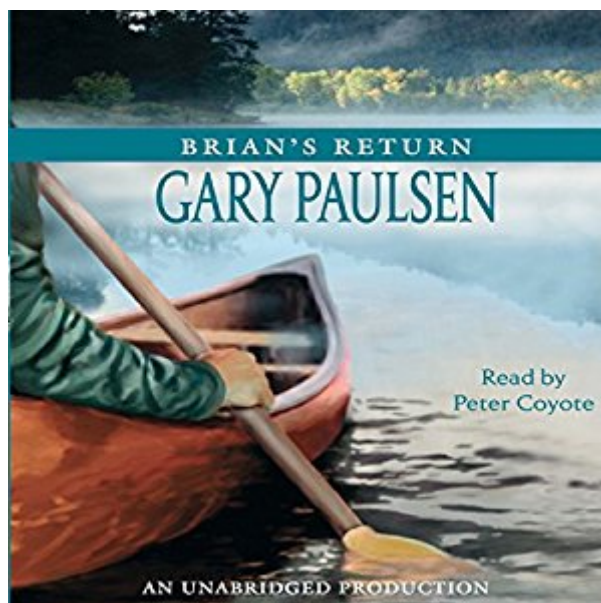


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# Brian's Return



## Synopsis

As millions of readers of *Hatchet*, *The River*, and *Brian's Winter* know, Brian Robeson survived alone in the wilderness by finding solutions to extraordinary challenges. But now that he's back in civilization, he can't find a way to make sense of high school life. He feels disconnected, more isolated than he did alone in the North. The only answer is to return-to "go back in"-for only in the wilderness can Brian discover his true path in life, and where he belongs.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 2 hours and 27 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Listening Library

Audible.com Release Date: February 9, 2012

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B0077BRUIA

Best Sellers Rank: #51 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Self Esteem & Reliance #56 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Boys & Men #139 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Survival Stories

## Customer Reviews

Review - The Brain Sagas by Gary PaulsenI have now finished all five of the Brian Sage books - *Hatchet*, *The River*, *Brian's Winter*, *Brian's Return* and *The Hunt*. and the epilogue *Guts* by Gary Paulsen. *The Hatchet* is one of three Newberry Awards that Gary Paulsen has earned. Basically the series is one story. The story of an teenage boy who at age 13 is left alone in the North Woods of Canada due to a pilot's fatal heart attack and plane wreck. The first book, *The Hatchet* tells of the guts, intelligence, patience and luck of a 13 year old boy with little wilderness experience in learning how to live and survive in a remote wilderness. We get a marvelous set of instructions in wilderness lore and living, and a glimpse into an intelligent mind that problem solves, learns and masters a strange world. At the end of this book Brian retrieves a signal radio from the submerged plane and is rescued. In *Brian's Winter* is an alternate ending. Brian is not rescued, but manages to learn more and survive

into December. We see more of Brian's talents and abilities and new found skills. Here, Brian stumbles into a family of Cree Native Americans manning a trap line, who take him in. Brian flies out on the next supply plane. The Cree family consider him like one of the old people for Brian is dressed in skins he has captured and his arrows have stone points he has made himself. Yes, some of the story is very fortuitous for Brian, but that does not distract from the lessons of the wilderness and the lessons of life Brian has to learn to survive.

The River is a book with Brian returning to the North Woods with a psychologist, Derek, of the military attempting to learn how to teach survival to the military. The man is not schooled in the wilderness at all, and Brian becomes the adult in charge of the adventure. Brian sends the 200 pounds of supplies back with the plane that flew them in, and commences to recreate the world he knew in the first two books. Half the book is a terrifying trip over 100 miles, 3+ days, down a river, its rapids, lakes and swamps, with Derek unconscious on a wilderness made raft. We get a first hand look at the guts necessary to achieve this. Again, they manage to make a trapper's cabin and are rescued.

In Brian's Return we see Brian not fitting back into civilization, 15 - 16 year old's school and society. Brian has adjusted to the Wilderness, and that is the reality he much prefers. Brian takes along a few supplies and does very well.

In The Hunt Brian is back in the North Woods learning more woods lore and ways. By now he is nearly an expert. Brian finds an old man, Billy, in his camp one evening. Billy and Brian share a mutual evening of silent communication and while few words are exchanged, Brian gains medicine. In respect, Billy, leaving camp very early before Brian is awake, leaves an amulet of white tail deer fur and crow's feathers for Brian. Brian recognizes the significance of this and immediately hangs it around his neck. Shortly thereafter, Brian and a wounded dog find each other. It turns out the dog belonged to the Cree Family Brian had met in Brian's Winter. Unfortunately, a bear had devastated the cabin and family of the Cree family, killing two members of that family. Brian rescues the wife, buries the dead, and deals with the stoic, bureaucratic officials. Once they leave, Brian hunts and in a wonderful scene - which I will not spoil - kills the bear.

Guts is stories from Gary Paulsen's life, rough childhood, adventures in Minnesota, Canada, the American South West, Colorado. These episodes Gary wove into Brian's Story - a story beautifully and touchingly told. Gary's knowledge and actual experiences gave him the insight to write the Brian Saga. Not only is the woods lore appropriately, accurately and well handled, but the changes that the North Woods induces in Brian are well followed. The books are at once a deep lesson in both survival and in life. We learn much about wilderness living. But we also are treated to the contrasts of life in the

city and in the Wilderness. Due a few violent scenes, this series should not be read by youth under 13 or so. Death is a part of life, and life is an endless living with what is there. It takes *Real Guts*, perseverance, and patience, to achieve what Brian achieved, and that is the real message of these books. Life takes Real Guts, lots of perseverance, and lots of patience. The books read very well. The stories are well told. The reading level is at least 8th grade. And for those with an interest in Nature and the Wilderness, be it North Woods, SW desert or ocean, the lessons apply. I found the reading to be extremely enjoyable, and the lessons deep and well taught without being preachy. A great series of books.

My 9 year old LOVED Hatchet so we bought him all the books by Gary Paulsen. He says they all seem to follow the same literary "formula" just in different settings - winter, an island, etc but he loves the outdoors and adventure books so he enjoys them, despite their slight predictability.

After returning to city life, Brian found there was something missing. He returns to the land that has grown into his spirit.

**BRIAN'S RETURN** by Gary Paulsen. **STORY BRIEF:** This is a sequel to and should be read after the "Hatchet." It is the 4th book. Books 2 and 3 are not required before reading this, although I recommend reading them in order if you like Hatchet. In Hatchet 13-year-old Brian was stranded in the Canadian wilderness for 54 days after a plane crash. It was a survival story. Now at age 15 Brian yearns to return. He doesn't feel right living the normal life among other teens. Maybe a third or more of the book is his time among his peers and making plans to return. The rest of the story is his time in the wilderness. This time is different because he has supplies and equipment which he didn't have in the previous books. **REVIEWER'S OPINION:** I like thinking about how I live vs. how Brian lived in the wild. It's a good perspective. It may have contributed to my desire to get rid of some of my clutter. I am reminded of a scientist who studied insects - maybe ants - I can't remember. He said people respect nonfiction but they read fiction, which is why he wrote a fictional story about insects. At the end of Brian's Return the author mentions his extensive personal experiences in the wild. He said he knew he wanted to eventually write about them, and that many of the scenes in the Brian books were things that actually happened to him. I'm glad he wrote in a fictional manner rather than a nonfiction/memoir. I probably wouldn't have read that. But I loved reading these things through Brian. I also love reading about justice and revenge. So I enjoyed the scene where a football player bully started something with Brian. But Brian won that fight. The book

is shorter than standard novels. The narrator was Peter Coyote who 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 Return3 stars. Brian's HuntDATA:Unabridged audiobook length: 2 hrs and 26 mins. Narrator: Peter Coyote. Swearing language: none. Sexual content: none. Setting: current day upstate New York and the Canadian wilderness. Copyright: 1999. Genre: young adult adventure fiction.

Great book, great service!

my daughter loved it, but not as much as hatchet

This is the fourth book I have read in Gary Paulsen's "Hatchet" series and - amazingly enough - the magic is as strong as ever. I read it on my Kindle and so was unaware that I was coming to the end of this slim book, so that when it ended, I was shocked and disappointed. The place Paulsen chose for the end was absolutely appropriate, but I wanted it to go on and on. I was by no means ready to say goodbye to Brian and to the beautiful and hazardous Canadian north country.At age 75, I am new to Paulsen's books. If I can fall in love with them, I'd say anybody over the age of 8 or 10 will love them, too. njs

I thoroughly enjoyed the book. I read paulsen's books with struggling students and they too enjoy the outdoor books. I live in a rural section of the blue ridge mountains where outdoor life and hunting and fishing are very important parts of everyday life.

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