



## Man-Eaters Of Kumaon

*Jim Corbett*

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## Man-Eaters Of Kumaon Jim Corbett

A tracker-turned-conservationist, Jim Corbett was a renowned writer and wildlife expert. Born on 25 July 1875, he was appointed a colonel in the British Indian Army and was often requested by the government of the United Province (modern-day Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand) to hunt man-eaters and leopards that spread terror in the Garhwal and Kumaon region. An avid photographer, Corbett's books, particularly *Man-eaters of Kumaon* and *Jungle Lore* achieved international critical acclaim and earned global recognition. As a conservationist, Corbett was instrumental in spreading awareness and drawing up programmes for the protection of India's wildlife. He also played a key role in the creation of a national reserve for the Bengal tiger. As a homage to his tireless contribution to wildlife conservation and welfare, the national reserve was renamed Jim Corbett National Park in 1957, two years after Corbett passed away in 1955.

## Man-Eaters Of Kumaon Details

Date : Published January 6th 2017 by Om Books International (first published 1944)

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Author : Jim Corbett

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# From Reader Review Man-Eaters Of Kumaon for online ebook

## Bookworm says

Absolutely fascinating account of one man's experiences stalking some of the most dangerous animals in India--man eating tigers! I loved Jim Corbett's neat and concise way of writing. His descriptions were minute and not one bit boring. I couldn't imagine facing the danger he did, months at a stretch, wondering if the next step would be his last.

He has such a deep love for nature too, and a keen enjoyment of the little things like a birds nest, or trout stream that make one feel he is talking to a friend. A place of honor on the shelf for this one!

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## Dennis Koniecki says

"A village in a jungle was being terrorized by a man-eating tigress. She'd killed over 200 farmers and nobody could stop her. So they contacted me. I didn't want to be responsible for any other deaths, so I went into the jungle alone with only my faithful companion Robin--the best dog the world has ever known--to watch my back. After a brisk hike of 10 miles I sat down to have a light lunch consisting of a giant river trout that I'd just caught myself and, of course, plenty of steaming hot tea to warm my soul. Then I took a nap. I woke up slowly and admired the beautiful color patterns on the back of a giant killer cobra as it slithered over my leg and past some exotic orchids. A Himalayan bear was sniffing at the remains of my lunch, but not interested in me or Robin. Suddenly the denizens of the jungle started to chatter. From the way the langurs were calling to the chital, sambar, and kakar, I knew the tigress was near. To draw her out, I gave the call of a male tiger searching for a mate. Unfortunately, she did not come from the direction I was expecting and was nearly upon me before I realized my mistake. I spun at the last second, lifted my weapon, and hit her with a perfectly placed shot so that she died instantly and without any pain. Upon examining her, I saw that she had she incorrectly healed broken ribs likely suffered in a fall approximately 3 years and 2 months prior to our encounter. This had robbed the great hunter of her agility and is likely why she became a man-eater. The villagers were overjoyed to learn of her demise, as they had not left their homes in weeks and were unable to farm their land or feed their livestock. And then I returned home to my sister at my spring estate on top of a mountain in the Himalayas overlooking a jungle filled with leopards and tigers and bears and yeti and then I rolled myself a cigarette which I enjoyed with hot tea and goat's milk because I'm a complete fucking bad ass."

That's a summary of pretty much EVERY SINGLE ONE of Jim Corbett's ridiculously awesome and damn near unbelievable stories about years of his life spent tracking down and killing man-eating tigers that were terrorizing villagers in the Himalayan foothills of India.

Corbett wasn't some pansy trophy hunter who paid a small fortune to fly into a foreign country and have locals lead him right to the most exotic animals so he could shoot them from a safe distance. He was an Englishman born and raised in India who learned to track dangerous animals and emulate their calls and used that skill like a super power any time the lives of innocent villagers were threatened by leopards and tigers who'd become man-eaters.

But he wasn't just a hunter--he was also a conservationist! He laments the big cats that must be put down after they become man-eaters and he praises their beauty. Later in life, he published a book of wildlife

photography. The oldest national park in India--created to protect endangered tigers--is named after him.

I'm not saying this is the best non-fiction book I've ever read. Or even the best non-fiction adventure book--that's obviously *Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster*. But it is a pretty cool book filled with entertaining first person stories about a man, a gun, a dog, lots of tea, and man-eating tigers in British Colonial India.

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### **Sjs says**

What a read! I was totally taken with the man as much as his adventures, a quiet an unassuming person with an almost limitless knowledge of the jungle. Jim Corbett details his adventures hunting man-eating tigers around India in the 1920's. Some of these cats killed well over 500 people, Corbett hunted to protect people and not for the sake of hunting.

Corbett also teaches the reader important principles of conservation as he relates his story. Here is a man completely at ease in nature with a grasp of its beauty and danger. He relates his stories in a humble way, but surely he must have been lauded as the greatest hunter of his day. Still, he adheres to the highest standards at all times and is a hunter and outdoorsman of the highest order.

These stories are told humbly, but are real-life chess matches resulting in life and death. Corbett stares into the face of a more than one tiger and felt he had no business being alive to tell the story, but for skill and a huge dollop of luck.

Simply told yet with enough detail to easily imagine what it was like, the I was completely riveted by these stories. I highly recommend this book!

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### **Ridhika Khanna says**

This book was a little difficult for me to rate. The prime reason being that I am absolutely in love with tigers. I have seen a lot of documentaries on tigers and have enjoyed it thoroughly.

I had heard about Jim Corbett as a famous hunter. He has undoubtedly killed many tigers while hunting and only a handful of them were man eaters. This point disturbed me a lot as I am against such hunting. To me, hunting is only justified if you have to put food on the table or in this book's case the target being a man eater. I cant see hunting as a sport.

I read a little about Corbett on the internet and came to know that though he was a regular hunter, he turned into a conservationist and a naturalist. While reading the book, I came across quite interesting passages like Corbett describing tigers as a beautiful and a proud animal. He had never looked at a tiger with hate or disgust. He had utmost love for the animal and it pained him when anyone used the phrase "blood thirsty as a tiger". He had no doubt killed a lot of tigers and for me that is kind of unforgivable but I cannot ignore that he was the same guy who took to lecturing groups of schoolchildren about their natural heritage and the need to conserve forests and their wildlife.

Coming to the book, I loved the way it has been written. Corbett has quite an intimate knowledge about jungles and calling sounds of various wild animals. It certainly helped me to paint a clearer picture of the forest in my mind.

I loved the beginning when Corbett explained as to why a tiger turns into a man eater. I came to know a lot of things about tigers which I hadn't earlier. I loved the way he described the jungles and the villages of Kumaon. It is only possible to lay out such details when you are absolutely in love with the forest. Overall, I loved the feel of the book. It has been written in a simple and an interesting manner. This is the first book I have read about hunting and have thoroughly enjoyed it. I look forward to read more from this genre.

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### **Allison says**

Jim Corbett, Sahib and master of hunting, walks the reader through 7 tales of his hunting - and destroying - man-eating tigers. As Corbett patiently explains, humans are not tigers' natural nor preferred prey, and tigers resort to man only if the animal suffers a physical ailment that causes it to seek out an easy target. Sometimes these ailments are from animal injury or human intervention, regardless of the cause the animals soon begins to prowl for human flesh.

Living in a 21st century modern state where the largest predator i know lives 2 hours away, i found the premise difficult to comprehend: how could people even encounter a tiger if they are working in their fields near their homes?? But Corbett paints a beautiful picture of small Indian villages nestled in the hills and valleys of the Himalayas in the 20s and 30s - where firearms are scarce and people work fully immersed in nature.

Truly an enjoyable book. Corbett provides vivid imagery of his surroundings, exploits and reasoning for hunting the way he does. His humble yet calculating nature jumps off the page and the reader really does feel that they are shadowing him through the ravines and jungles of India.

I couldn't recommend a better book. A very quick read that really transport you to a new world, one that is very, very real. Corbett is an impressive hunter and an incredible man.

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### **Jaya Kumar K says**

A comprehensive narration of the experiences of Jim Corbett in the forests of North India.

Thrills us to the core. Made me look around for any stalking tiger one night, in the 3rd floor balcony of my apartment in a city!

The book shares not just the story of tigers, but the passion of Jim Corbett for all these creatures, the kind natured man who exposes himself of his good heart when he tries to find all ways to spare a cat before deciding to shoot it down. Walking alone in search of man eaters, spending days and nights waiting over a kill, and surviving all seasons and dangers created by these sometimes clever animals - and the vivid expression of those experiences makes him unique. Its hard to see another person of his stature and gut anymore in India.

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## **awesomatik.de says**

Also für ein Buch über menschenfressende Tiger ist es ganz schön unspannend geschrieben.

Die Geschichten ähneln sich stark. Corbett bindet ein Ochsen oder eine Ziege als Köder an die Stelle, wo als letztes ein Mensch gefressen wurde und klettert auf einen Baum, um dem Tiger aufzulauern. Häufig muss er die Tiger tagelang durch die Wildnis verfolgen.

Viel Text besteht aus Beschreibungen von Wegen und Tälern. Die Begebenheiten waren sicherlich für die Jagd relevant aber sie machen die Geschichte nicht spannender. Zudem ist er recht bescheiden und stellt sich und seine Gefühle in den Hintergrund, wodurch einem das mitfiebern erschwert wird.

Aber Jim Corbett sagt selbst, dass er ein guter Jäger aber kein guter Erzähler sei. Er hatte die Geschichtensammlung ursprünglich 1935 für Freunde geschrieben und sie dann später doch noch als Buch veröffentlicht.

Man kann schon ahnen wie adrenalinreich und extrem anstrengend die Tigerjagd gewesen sein muss. Und es ist interessant dabei Einblicke in die indische Himalaya-Region zu erhalten.

Jim Corbett war zunächst Jäger und tauschte später sein Gewehr gegen eine Kamera und setzte sich zunehmend für Naturschutz ein.

Mittlerweile gibt es sogar einen Jim Corbett Nationalpark in Indien.

Sein Leben muss unglaublich abenteuerreich gewesen sein und hätte definitiv ein besseres Buch verdient.

Die überragenden Kritiken kann ich jedenfalls nicht nachvollziehen.

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## **Josh says**

I can't recall how I came across this book exactly, I think I was browsing around for out-of-copyright stuff and other freebies that I could populate the Kindle with. Because normally I wouldn't be all that interested in an old book about big game hunting, presuming it would just be some oblivious early-20th-century white guy plowing through jungles with an elephant gun killing tigers so he could have something to brag about over brandy and cigars. Nor am I a hunter, and I'm keenly aware of the man-made problems tigers have today. But the book came with glowing reviews, and the price was right, so I put it on the Kindle for a possible right moment down the road. That right moment came on the plane out to Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks. It seemed like a short, easy read to tackle while traveling, and I thought maybe I'd learn something about wild animals in case of bear incidents. And if Jim Corbett turned out to be straight out of a grainy 1940s newsreel about capturing animals for the circus, I'd bail.

Turns out his motivations are much more respectable, and his exploits made for a surprisingly good read. The book mostly chronicles his work hunting man-eating tigers, a rarity that only comes about when a tiger becomes injured and can't capture its normal prey. Instead it has to resort to less appealing, but easier-to-catch game in the form of humans. These tigers could be absolutely devastating, sometimes killing hundreds of people. Corbett put a stop to many of the more infamous human predators in the region. Which is no easy task. Tigers aren't deer: they're hunting you while you hunt them. But the guy is sort of amazing. At one

point he kills a bear *with an axe*. He kills a cobra by throwing rocks at it. He sleeps in trees. He goes without food for a day or two at a stretch while covering serious miles of Himalayan forest.

Yet he still comes across as compassionate and respectful towards the natural environment. Whatever time he may have spent as a trophy hunter--and certainly he gained his experience *somewhere*--is not at all evident in this book. He advocates going after tigers with cameras rather than guns, for one thing. He also talks about his controversial interest in sitting up in trees to watch tigers hunting--controversial, it seems, because he expects people will wonder why he isn't shooting them instead. Nowadays he's remembered as a conservationist, he's got an Indian National Park named after him, and he's largely regarded as a hero. So, mostly guilt-free adventure reading found here.

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## **Alcatraz Dey says**

A comprehensive narration of the experiences of Jim Corbett in the forests of North India.

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The book shares not just the story of tigers, but the passion of Jim Corbett for all these creatures, the kind natured man who exposes himself of his good heart when he tries to find all ways to spare a cat before deciding to shoot it down. Walking alone in search of man eaters, spending days and nights waiting over a kill, and surviving all seasons and dangers created by these sometimes clever animals – and the vivid expression of those experiences makes him unique. Its hard to see another person of his stature and gut anymore in India.

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## **Chandrashekar says**

Man Eaters of Kumaon, if seen only as a literary work, is brilliant. And that is where I want to focus the review on. This is not the right forum to get into the whole debate about the ethics concerning 'Big Game Hunting'. The book is engaging though you sometimes get a feeling that you are reading the same story all over again with minor changes. I cant give another negative comment on the content because this was my first book on the genre and being a closet amateur wildlife enthusiast I loved the nuggets of wisdom given throughout the book about the behavior, actions and reactions of the big cats to different situations. His understanding of the forest and the beings residing in it is awe inspiring. What keeps the interest of the reader from sagging for too long is not the hunt itself but the story weaved around it. The background of each tiger is given, what were its infamous exploits, what has made him/her walk down this shameful path of infamy, what were the author's encounters with the man eater and so on. You get a feeling that you are reading a thriller and not a book on hunting man eaters. So many times the author is being hunted by the same man eater whom he is intending to hunt down. So many times he escapes death by a whisker. Yet so many times he accomplishes the task at hand. One might not support his actions on many occasions but hey, "His name was James Corbett and he did what he did."

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## Shine Sebastian says

The best wilderness book I've read so far!! In 'Man Eaters of Kumaon', Jim Corbett, an exceptionally talented hunter, writer, and in his later years a conservationist, gives us the blood-chilling, frightening, and highly exciting experiences and encounters with the furious wild, while he was hunting the 'Man-Eating' tigers of the Indian forests.

Corbett is so good at his writing and narrative style, so that I experienced the incredible wilderness and the fascinating animals so intimately for the first time in my life!

Tigers!! OMG! , As much as I was frightened and was uncomfortable because of my heartbeat while reading the book, my fear was partially undermined by the awesomeness and the incredible beauty of this magnificent beast!!

It is clear from the very beginning, how much Corbett loves the wilderness and all the incredible wild animals. But he finds himself in a very uncomfortable situation, when he has to decide whether he should save the lives of the helpless villagers who are frightened to death by the 'Man-Eating' tigers and are living their lives, afraid of every sound or movement outside their house, or whether he should leave them at the mercy of the Tigers, that develops a taste for human flesh because of certain factors and conditions ( Corbett explains several of the reasons for tigers or leopards becoming Man-Eaters. 1- When a tiger is wounded so badly from some fight between other tigers or animals, or from a Hunter's gun that didn't kill it but wounded it badly, or from some accident that happened while it handles its prey - Eg. The most common and fatal of this type is injury from Porcupine quills. In all above circumstances, the tiger is handicapped and so it is impossible for it to catch its normal prey, so it resorts to the easiest prey nearby- Humans! 2.- When a tiger accidentally happens to get to eat the abandoned corpses of the people who died during an epidemic. But when the epidemic is over, the tiger suddenly finds its supply of easy food cut out. So it frequents the nearby villages ( mostly at night) and kills people. In their normal and healthy condition, Tigers or Leopards don't see humans as a prey. )

Corbett decides that he will forever be haunted by guilt if he didn't kill a Man-Eater that is responsible for sometimes up to 100 human lives. So he decides to hunt down and kill these man-eating tigers to save the villagers.

This book is filled with so many fascinating real life stories and encounters, and there is not a moment when I felt bored.

Highly recommend it to anyone who loves wilderness books/stories, or anyone who likes to read highly thrilling and suspenseful non-fiction books! :)

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## John Winterson says

The 'Great White Hunter' genre has fallen out of favour, especially with the media classes. Yet perhaps we must question whether, in replacing old prejudices with new, we can in fact be less broad-minded than our ancestors, who in many ways had no choice but to develop a practical knowledge of the world in which they lived.

Jim Corbett certainly presents a challenge to some fashionable perceptions of the role of the semi-professional hunter and of the last decades of British India. Like the vast majority of Britons in India, he was not partying at Simla but getting on with some very important work, not for profit but for the benefit of the local population, protecting them from rogue tigers or leopards who were capable of killing dozens, even hundreds. In doing so, he exposed himself to incredible risks.



Yet this keen hunter was also a keen conservationist. This paradox is by no means uncommon: partly it is because hunters want to preserve animals in order to have something to shoot, but it is also because the best of them develop a genuine love of nature on its own terms, without the sentimentality of urban animal-lovers. Corbett developed a real sympathy for what he calls the 'jungle folk,' but never forgot what they were, 'red of tooth and claw.'

He also had a greater knowledge, understanding, and love of India and its people than most of those today who would write him off a 'colonialist.' He was nothing of the sort: born and raised in India, he never saw it as anything but India. To this day there is a national park there named after him.

Above all, he loved tigers. He shoots rogue man-eaters because his greater sympathy is with the Indian people they kill, but he is at pains to point out that such behaviour is unusual in tigers and he respects those he shoots. He is conflicted when he shoots one tiger that later turns out to be innocent. It is true that he shoots another on a rather dubious pretext, but on yet another occasion he feels guilty at having to shoot a confirmed man-eater when it was asleep. He seems to have felt that the tiger was a hunter like himself – as he puts it, the tiger is a gentleman – and should be treated as such. His attitude can be summed up as 'do unto the tiger as he would do unto you – but do it first.' Corbett is therefore ruthless in the hunt but never cruel.

In any case, whether or not one agrees with his values, Corbett is a born story-teller. Despite the fact that he obviously lived to tell the tale, one soon finds oneself so lost in the narrative that one wonders how Corbett can possibly escape the hairy situation he is describing. He has the great gift of being able to convey tension and uncertainty in very few words.

This particular edition also benefits from some delightful line drawings that give a perfect sense of place.

Above all, Corbett is good company. He is at his most likable when writing the moving life story of his favourite dog, Robin. No one could doubt his credentials as an animal-lover after reading that.

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## **Renuka says**

This is the third book I am leaving unfinished this year. This is not bad right :/

So, I am a bigtime wildlife lover. I watch all those wildlife-related documentaries running on Discovery, Nat-Geo, etc. My favorite channel is BBC Earth. And, Most importantly I love Tigers!!!!

That's why it was so overwhelming for me to read the author describing how he shot the Tigers and called them "Man-Eaters". I will never ever support hunting and shooting of animals. I agree that they were a menace to the villagers but killing them is not the solution.

I shouldn't have picked this one up. :(

PS: 2 stars are for vivid description of the jungles.

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## **Nigel says**

I first read this book many many years ago and it stayed in my mind. Recently one or two things raised it in my memory and I decided it would be good to read it again while waiting for another book to arrive. Given that this was written in the middle of the last century about events in the first half of that century it is remarkably readable and timeless.

Jim Corbett was a sportsman (hunter) who took to hunting man eating tigers (and other wildlife) in the foothills of the Himalaya. However despite this unlikely set of credentials he comes over as a someone who cares deeply for the environment and the wildlife. Choosing mostly to stalk these man eating tigers on foot alone in often difficult terrain he prefers to give the animals a sporting chance - I wonder how likely such an attitude would be in current times. Interesting stories about an area of India which was certainly a lovely (if dangerous) part of the world at that time I was delighted to find that this is still a favourite book after all this time. I plan to look for one or two other books written by him too.

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## **Michael says**

Jim Corbett was a trophy hunter turned conservationist. The only problem is... the whole "better late than never" theory doesn't really apply here because he can't bring back or replace the dead big cats he destroyed for nothing more than his ego and their skin. Yes, some of these were man eaters that posed a problem to innocent people. But the thing I noticed was most of these became "man eaters" because someone like Corbett tried to shoot them for no reason.... there by wounding them which caused them to need to resort to eating people. So basically he was killing tigers for eating people that were only eating people because they were shot by other people for no reason. Sorry... I can't say I justify that. Not to mention this is a man that sat over kills and shot animals when they came back to eat.... not only "man eaters" .... many innocent cats. And shot cats in their sleep. I can appreciate the good he tried to do later in life, but that does not fix the damage he did before. The book is pretty good.... but the stories are very similar. Not really like reading the same story over and over.... but close. "The Man Eating Leopard of Rudraprayag" was a better book by Corbett. This book just kinda showed his bad side. A lot of beautiful animals died so he could obtain what he called a "trophy". I was a bit disgusted.

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