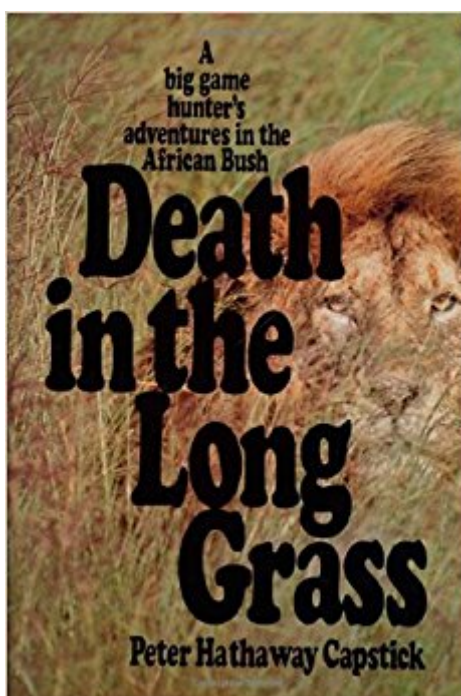


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# Death In The Long Grass: A Big Game Hunter's Adventures In The African Bush



## Synopsis

Few men can say they have known Africa as Peter Hathaway Capstick has known it-- leading safaris through lion country; tracking man-eating leopards along tangled jungle paths; running for cover as fear-maddened elephants stampede in all directions. And of the few who have known this dangerous way of life, fewer still can recount their adventures with the flair of this former professional hunter-turned-writer. Based on Capstick's own experiences and the personal accounts of his colleagues, *Death in the Long Grass* portrays the great killers of the African bush-- not only the lion, leopard, and elephant, but the primitive rhino and the crocodile waiting for its unsuspecting prey, the titanic hippo and the Cape buffalo charging like an express train out of control. Capstick was a born raconteur whose colorful descriptions and eye for exciting, authentic detail bring us face to face with some of the most ferocious killers in the world-- underrated killers like the surprisingly brave and cunning hyena, silent killers such as the lightning-fast black mamba snake, collective killers like the wild dog. Readers can lean back in a chair, sip a tall, iced drink, and revel in the kinds of hunting stories Hemingway and Ruark used to hear in hotel bars from Nairobi to Johannesburg, as veteran hunters would tell of what they heard beyond the campfire and saw through the sights of an express rifle. As thrilling as any novel, as taut and exciting as any adventure story, *Death in the Long Grass* takes us deep into the heart of darkness to view the Africa that few people have ever seen.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Hook-and-bullet adventures had by tough guys such as Teddy Roosevelt and Papa Hemingway

may be out of favor in these times of eco-awareness, but Peter Hathaway Capstick's account of big-game hunting in Africa remains a classic. With humor, grace, and supreme tension, Capstick takes the reader on safari, eloquently stating his case for blood sport while portraying the intensity of the hunt. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“Peter Hathaway Capstick's 'Death in the Long Grass' continues to be one of the true classics of written hunting tales. I just read it again, and loved it just as much as when it was first published in the late 1970s.”  
—The Wichita Eagle

I can't even kill a spider, so hunting is not my thing, but I LOVED this book. First off it came in great condition. Second, the author is incredible. His writing style is a weeee bit antiquated while still being captivating. It's a real page turner. It's such a beautiful book. I've made everyone I know read it. There's something primal about reading through his experiences. The author's true respect for these animals comes through in every encounter. I felt like I could see exactly what he was seeing. I'm so glad he penned his experiences. They should be treasured. The sleeve was good as new and the book cover was a beautiful goldenrod color, so it'll eventually look great on my bookshelves. Each chapter is about a different animal. Very informative stuff. It really gives you an appreciation for animal life (humans and the animals we kill). Reading it makes me feel so in touch the the primal me and it's the closest I'll ever get the the thrill of the hunt.

This book is yet another of Capstick's insights into the life of a Bwana (African Hunting Guide). For those who want to go hunt big game in Africa, this book will either fire up the desire to go or scare you so badly, you'll never want to leave home again. With the help of his Black African (Masai) Assistants, (Silent and Deadly --Yup! That's their names) Capstick faces the big five of African Man-Killers, Leopard, Cape Buffalo, Lion, Hippo, and Elephants. I never knew that Elephants would do their best to kill people. Yikes! While no mere mortal can compare to Robert Ruark as a big game hunter and writer / author, Capsticks holds firmly in second place. The book is scary because it is true. Bill Cosby once said, "I'm not the boss at my house. I don't know when I lost it. I don't know if I ever had it, but I've seen the boss's job and I don't want it." The same can be said of being a Bwana like Capstick. Great to read about, but I sure don't want to do it! DEATH IN THE LONG GRASS is compelling reading. God bless! Slan leat, le gra` Dr. John Touchton

Yes, Peter Hathaway Capstick is his real name, and what a great name for a White Hunter !!! Mr.

Capstick was a professional hunter, both for the government and privately (i.e., he lead safaris) in Africa in the 1970s. I remember reading his articles in *Outdoor Life* back then, thrilling as I read about how he put his life on the line to track a wounded man-eating lion that had just devoured some poor native. When I stumbled across this book recently, I immediately ordered it, and I was not disappointed. Despite slinging words the way William Shatner chews scenery (almost to the point of being comical at times), his stories of real-life death in the long grass are fascinating and engaging. When he tells us about how he was knocked down and straddled by a leopard that had just slaughtered a family of six (he says the leopard is the only animal in Africa that kills people for fun), I thought "oh boy how is he gonna get out of this ?". Thank goodness for his head tracker Silent, who poked the barrel of his ancient shotgun into the kitty's ear and pulled both triggers. Yes, it's *that* kind of book. Capstick starts with a chapter on each of the African Big 5, and then adds chapters on the many other animals there that can and will kill you if they get a chance. Like the hippo, who he says kills more natives each year than the Big 5 combined. Or the hyena, a pack of which can and will force a lion off its kill.

I enjoy Capstick and have enjoyed reading this book more than once. I am not sure that, were it written today, it would be published. One of the real values in Capstick's writing is that he understands and writes well about the history of Africa and its hunting life, but can see the changes coming. He tries to weigh the value and difficulties of the old methods of hunting and the new and changing cultural associations with nature, hunting and man's place in the environment. He made a conscious choice as a young man to leave the US and live and work in the most undeveloped place he could find. His experiences and his ability to describe them are entertaining and thought provoking.

This is one of my favorite books of all time, I love retelling these stories to friends--they are always very entertained by the different ways an elephant can kill a man! Or how many people a single lion can eat, or how many vultures a crocodile can still kill with half of its brain blown apart, or how cunning and deadly a leopard can be even against the most hardened veteran hunters. I couldn't put this book down, start to finish.

I really liked *Death in the Long Grass*. It was well-written and easy to read. I really could imagine myself being on safari with the author. I think the stories are still timely, well told, captivating and engrossing. My favorite chapter was the one about hunting leopards, which I found very interesting

and compelling. I gave *Death in the Long Grass* five stars because I found it to be very enjoyable and informative. Who cares if Capstick had a big ego? I didn't. Most successful people in life do. He was very good at what he did as a big game hunter in Africa for that period of time and he lived to move on to something else afterwards. The only negative in *Death in the Long Grass* is the author's diatribe against the conservationists and the politics involved, which I did not hold against him.

Even though this book has been available for about 40 years, it is still as intriguing and hard to put down as anything I have ever read. Capstick has had more experience in the African bush than most wildlife writers and his descriptions of his encounters are terrifying and heart stopping narratives with a healthy dose of respect for the animals and humor at the outrageous predicaments that can only be born of disastrous situations. What a great read!

One animal per chapter. Author goes into fascinating detail on each. Both terrifying and hysterical anecdotes during his years as a Professional Hunter (PH) and guide. Even non-hunters will like this for the detail. It's rather surprising which animal he rates as most dangerous. If you want to escape to an African big game camp and join a pH, begin at page 1. Well written and moves quickly, so you will be deep into it quickly.

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