



How to Survive a Garden Gnome Attack: Defend Yourself When the Lawn Warriors Strike (And They Will)

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Move over zombies and adolescent vampires.

There's a new threat in town—and it's only twelve inches tall. *How to Survive a Garden Gnome Attack* is the only comprehensive survival guide that will help you prevent, prepare for, and ward off an imminent home invasion by the common garden gnome. Once thought of as harmless yard decorations, evidence is mounting that these smiling lawn statues are poised and ready to wreck havoc. The danger is real. And it's here.

Class 1 gnome-slayer and gnome defense expert Chuck Sambuchino has developed a proven system—Assess, Protect, Defend, Apply—for safeguarding property, possessions, and loved ones. Strategies include step-by-step instructions for gnome-proofing the average dwelling, recognizing and interpreting the signs of a gathering hoard, and—in the event that a secured perimeter is breached—confronting and combating the attackers at close range.

How to Survive a Garden Gnome Attack: Defend Yourself When the Lawn Warriors Strike (And They Will) Details

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Author : Chuck Sambuchino

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From Reader Review How to Survive a Garden Gnome Attack: Defend Yourself When the Lawn Warriors Strike (And They Will) for online ebook

Melki says

I've tried to read this three times now, and am finding it to be spectacularly unfunny.

No star rating as I didn't finish the book, but SHEESH! I'm sorry I bought this.

J.D. says

The idea of this is much funnier than the actual execution of it. While there were a couple of parts that I found mildly amusing, most of it was actually kind of *boring* to me, which a book like this should never be. That wasn't annoying in and of itself, but what was annoying was the use of @!%# and the like in place of actual curse words like "fuck" and "shit" (etc.) yet near the end of the book we get a full and uncensored "goddamn". Seriously? That's kind of stupid. As in *really* stupid.

However, this book still would've gotten three stars from me because it's a unique idea and the pictures are really great (and much more humorous than 97% of the text). The reason it lost an entire star in my rating of it was because of all the damn spelling errors. I always find it amusing to read a poorly edited/proofread book that thanks all of the editors and proofreaders. If you have that many people reading it then I'd think at least ONE of them would've caught the consistent misspelling of "horde" as "hoard". That, puppies and kittens, is INCORRECT in the context it was used. There were a few other spelling errors as well to go along with that hugely glaring one.

On a lighter note, "gnomeowner" is a great made up word.

Tom Franklin says

Chuck Sambuchino, the man who gives all writers hope with his annual Guild to Literary Agents, has written a fun and clever book that asks the question: How will you survive when (not if) garden gnomes try to kill you?

Sambuchino's book strikes the right level of intense paranoia and tongue-in-cheek with his subject. To be fair, this is one of those "Have I got a great idea for a book!" ideas that could easily have become stale and overdone after the first 10 pages. Sambuchino avoids this by giving his book a definite outline structure (Assess, Protect, Defend, Apply) that helps to focus the areas of his writing and intensify the paranoia.

Andrew Parsons deserves a great deal of credit on this book. His photographs of "innocent looking" garden gnomes caught in some potentially threatening-your-life poses are exactly the counterpoint Sambuchino's writing needed to bring this book off.

Deb says

I received this as a Christmas present from one of my thoughtful, yet, concerned children. I found it had some pretty useful information for fending off these menacing, bearded, yet deadly, buggers. Yes, I made the mistake of inviting them into my yard because I was influenced by misinformation that they were quite harmless and cute. How WRONG I was! They proved to be very naughty little beings. Through Sambuchino's book, I now know how to look for signs that they are planning to attack, maim, and/or kill me and my loved ones. I also have learned to protect my property, home and devise ways to be rid of them forever... or at least until they increase their numbers and come at me again. I will, from now on, be forever diligent.

Sam says

This is an hysterically superb little book on how to prepare yourself and your home for the onslaught of the Gnome hoards (and believe me they will come). Sambuchino has obviously spent many an hour planning and re-planning how and when the Gnomes may attack and how best to defend against such an occurrence. Filled with useful hints and tips and do and don'ts this is a must have for those who wish to survive the Gnome Uprising.

Benoit Lelièvre says

I'm a man. That means I'm born with ninety gigabytes of information, theory, philosophy and finger painting .pdf files about how to survive a zombie apocalypse. It's in the DNA, I can't help it. Ladies, try this. Start a discussion about zombies with men around you and they will obey to a primordial instinct and form a circle around you to debate the best practices in dispatching the undead. Therefore, reading tomes like *The Zombie Survival Guide* is useless to males, because we're ready. Zombies are a long shot though. Are there more pressing threats? Of course there are. Chuck Sambuchino informs us about the closest, most imminent threat to mankind survival: Garden Gnomes.

In his 106 pages tome of his, Sambuchino awakens men's intellect to the dangers of lawn ornaments. Using a simple Assess, Protect, Defend & Apply strategy model, he guides us, the reader, to build a proper defense system for our home. Thorough, Sambuchino covers the whole field of home protection. From assessing the distant threats of neighbors gnomes to one-on-one combat methods. My favorite part was "Protect" where he exposes an array of methods you can use to booby trap your yard against the twelve inch menace. The small and practical survival guide is also full of visual evidence of gnome life around the household. You will know what to watch for when it's your turn to repel the merry danger.

I had worries when I started reading this book. I thought the subject might have been a little slim and that the 106 pages format was too thin also. I was scared that it would be stretched out or crammed and overloaded. Sambuchino dutifully tiptoed around those issues, using method and structure. *How To Survive A Garden Gnome Attack* covers only one aspect of gnome invasion: defending your household (and staying alive while doing so). He never stretches out on a subject he doesn't finish. The serious tone and the creative research

makes it even more compelling. Needless to say, it leaves place for a sequel along the lines of: How To Survive A Garden Gnome Apocalypse. I'm already having goosebump over that sight: winter snow melting in May, uncovering an Armada of dormant garden gnomes all around me. Chuck, we need answers!

Step off your Mac-Book-Starbucks-Dwelling intellectual shoes for a seconds. If you don't you will end up a dead Mac-Book-Starbucks-Dwelling intellectual. Jonathan Franzen can always wait. While How To Survive A Garden Gnome Attack ain't exactly literary, it's the survival equivalent to *The Elements Of Style*. It's a book you carry around and study. Because when the gnomes attack, you rather be ready than dead.

(taken from my blog: www.deadendfollies.com)

Jessica says

A funny little book for garden gnome enthusiasts (like myself), casting the little plaster flowerbed-dwellers as crafty little sociopaths bent on murder and mayhem. Sambuchino details the ways they can get into your home and how you can protect yourself and your loved ones.

Stephanie Lorée says

After interviewing Chuck Sambuchino, I had to pick up a copy of this book. Let me tell you now, there is no better survival guide for pointed hat predators available. Sambuchino gives us step-by-step instructions on dealing with these vicious pipsqueaks, and his advice will leave you well informed and clutching your sides. I especially love the section on home defense and am in the process of constructing my own moat. This delightful little tome has a number of laugh-out-loud funny moments and is a quick read. The pictures really bring the guide together. You should pickup a copy of *How to Survive a Garden Gnome Attack* today, mostly because your life may depend on it. Following Sambuchino's method, you'll find out how at risk you are of a gnome invasion, and best of all you'll be able to take the necessary steps to prevent the buggers from assaulting your loved ones (and self!). Highly recommended for its wit and stunning photos. (4 Stars)

Christine says

Amélie and Travelocity paint them to be cultured European world travelers, but as the adage goes: don't believe everything you see on television. What they actually are are whirling dervishes of death, waiting patiently for the right moment to strike. You think zombies and juvenile vampires keep you up at night, you haven't seen anything yet. (Did you know that it was actually a wooden gnome that set ancient Rome ablaze? You won't learn that in any history book, my friends.)

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Karissa says

I got an advanced reading copy of this book through the Amazon Vine program. It was just too funny to pass

up. I mean I have read Zombie survival guides, werewolf survival guides; but a guide to survive those vicious garden gnomes!? How cool is that.

This book goes through a step by step process on how to defend yourself from garden gnomes. It starts with how to assess if you are at risk and how to determine if garden gnomes have infested your property. Then it goes on to inform the reader on how to protect their house against garden gnome invasion and how to defend yourself should those little ceramic bundles of terror breach your house. There are even a couple short "real-life" stories of gnome attack survivors.

This book was amusing. I laughed a couple times out-loud and snorted a few more times. This would be a good joke gift or something to buy just for the plain strangeness of having it. It is not much more than a joke book though. Luckily it is short and doesn't take itself too seriously, so it has that going for it.

Some parts of the book are truly funny; especially when the book goes through weapon recommendations (flame thrower - not recommended). There are wonderful pictures of gnomes wielding dangerous objects or gnomes sneaking into houses that are cute and humorous...and just a tad creepy. Other parts of the book are kind of repetitive and made my eyes roll.

To be honest I was expecting a bit more from this book. A bit more creativity and a bit more humor. Don't get me wrong there are some funny parts in here, but most of the recommendations are pretty simple and common sense type things. The funniest part was really the concept of this book and some of the pictures in it.

Overall it's pretty funny and might make a good coffee table book. It is incredibly short, but that works in this book's favor...I think any more would have been too much. If you are expecting a light and slightly amusing read you won't be disappointed, just don't expect anything too crazily clever or in depth.

Anne says

An amusing bit of fluff - and waaaaaaay easier to get through than the Zombie Survival Guide of yore (though I enjoyed comparing "best practices" in weaponry between the two). I feel pretty safe in my particular location as I don't see many garden gnomes about, but it's still good to be prepared.

All the photos were quite a delight.

Patricia Hamill says

Funny little book, especially if you imagine the impression you'd make on the neighbors if you actually followed all the advice it gives on preparing for the lawn warrior invasion.

I particularly enjoyed the image of someone digging a moat around their house and the one where you mount various weapons in every room of your house, beyond the reach of the gnomes, of course.

I bought this a few years back and read it whenever I need a chuckle.

Adria Goetz says

Such a gloriously, cheeky read that's perfect for a gag gift, a coffee table, but also very fun to read through in its entirety, which I did! I also had the pleasure of having lunch with Chuck Sambuchino last month, which made reading the book all the more entertaining, because I could hear his voice reading the book in my head. I am a huge gnome lover, so the idea that they're dangerous and out to attack as all was very concerning to me, but also humorous.

Ana Mardoll says

How to Survive a Garden Gnome Attack / 978-1-580-08463-5

I'm a big fan of the "Zombie Survival Guide" - I must have read my copy at least three times. It's incredibly funny and incredibly immersive, largely because it takes itself so seriously. Literally, the Zombie Survival Guide handbook is *THE* last word in zombie survival guides. Sure, zombies don't actually exist, but if some misguided soul whipped up a zombie virus in a lab tomorrow, everything in that survival guide would instantly be true, and inordinately useful. And it's that lavish attention to detail, and utter devotion to the no-nonsense spirit of survival handbooks that makes the Zombie Survival Guide so thoroughly awesome.

However, in the rush to cash in on the trend, "How to Survive a Garden Gnome Attack" tripped and fell headlong into the mud. The serious tone that is so crucial for this sort of guide is only halfheartedly attempted, and in most cases it's thrown to the wind entirely: the section on animal protectors, for instance, is titled "A Big %&*! Dog". (Apart from the juvenile "ha-ha, profanity!", it doesn't even work as a title. As an addendum modifier to 'big', the only words that really fit are a three letter word, or a four letter word with 'ing' appended. A four letter word without 'ing' doesn't fit there; it breaks flow. The author can't even get profanity right. *sigh*) The book also breaks the cardinal sin of trying to be funny with footnotes - I have never, ever seen this work, outside of maybe a Dave Barry book. Putting an asterisk in the text and then tossing in "* You may be totally screwed," as the 'note' at the bottom of the page isn't funny - it's lazy. Why not just write "Insert joke here"?

When the book isn't desperately trying-and-failing to be funny, it spends the rest of the time trying-and-failing to mimic the survival guide tone - it feels like the author has never read a survival guide before. Gone is the carefully measured tone and the lavishly outlined instructions - all the pointers and tips are flung out willy-nilly in a quick, casual, conversational tone. It's because of this strip-mining approach to survival guide writing that "How to Survive a Garden Gnome Attack" is literally 106 pages long, with a full-page picture of a garden gnome every third page. Why didn't they just make this a pamphlet? Then you could at least distribute them for giggles at the grocery store.

I didn't find this book funny, and I doubt it will amuse the guests as a coffee table book. Really, all it made me do was want to dig through the Zombie Survival Handbook again for the fourth time.

NOTE: This review is based on a free Advance Review Copy of this book provided through Amazon Vine.

~ Ana Mardoll

Michal says

It's OK , rather average. It has a lot of great pictures and some bits are entertaining. You can easily go through the book in less than a hour. The humour is very vanilla and didn't do much for me. It can be a fun gag gift but the price on the book \$14.99 is shocking. I got my one from a charity shop with 2 other books for €4 and I think that is a much more fair price.
