



That Bear Ate My Pants!

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There comes a time in every man's life when he says to himself, "Holy Sh*t! I'm about to be eaten by a bear!"

Tony James Slater went to Ecuador, determined to become a man.
It never occurred to him that 'or die trying' might be an option...

The trouble with volunteering in a South American animal refuge is that everything wants a piece of you.
And the trouble with being Tony, is that most of them got one.

Just how do you 'look after' something that's trying it's damnedest to kill you and eat you?
And how do you find love when you a) don't speak the language, and b) are constantly covered in excrement and entrails?

If only he'd had some relevant experience. Other than owning a pet rabbit when he was nine. And if only he'd bought some travel insurance...

That Bear Ate My Pants is the hilarious tale of one man's quest to better himself. Whether losing a machete fight with a tree, picking dead tarantulas out of a tank of live ones or sewing the head back on to a partially decapitated crocodile, Tony's misadventures are ridiculous, unbelievable and always entertaining.

Long before Sky One got involved, there were already plenty of Idiots Abroad. This is the story of one of them...

That Bear Ate My Pants! Details

Date : Published June 22nd 2011 by Various Things (ADT)

ISBN :

Author : Tony James Slater

Format : Kindle Edition 392 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Travel, Humor, Autobiography, Memoir, Animals

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From Reader Review That Bear Ate My Pants! for online ebook

Linda Parkinson-Hardman says

Tony Slater's book is an ideal 'travelogue' and another of those perfect antidotes to those who think that living a life of volunteering abroad is a cheap and easy way to see the world. The book opens with him chasing an escapee and it continues in much the same vein. The escapees in question though are rescued animals at an animal shelter in Ecuador. His writing captures your imagination immediately and paints a picture of a world I'm unlikely to see that is so vivid, that I feel I have been there with him, every step of the way. I sweated up and down the mountains, I avoided being eaten by the Jaguar, I too chased an unruly teenage bear around an enclosure and I felt every one of the blisters, the scratches and the bites he received; I loved every minute of it, laughing my way through the Spanish misunderstandings, the adventures, the encounters with locals (both human and animal), in fact as a result if I ever find myself in Ecuador, I will definitely visit the Santa Martha Animal Refuge (I have no intention of climbing into a bear enclosure though). I am really looking forward to his next book as I want to find out what happened next!

Hildy says

4.5 stars

Well, I really didn't think I'd be reading, let alone recommending, a book about a young English guy traveling to Ecuador and volunteering in an animal rescue centre, but I AM! Wow! This was really fun. This book had me laughing throughout while really feeling like I was experiencing Tony's adventures. It made me want to travel to Ecuador and feed animals and build shelters. WHAT?! How did that even happen? Tony is very likeable and I definitely want to read more of his adventures. I laughed out loud many times and read with a huge smile on my face. It was also sweet and heart-warming. It was exactly what I needed to read and I never would have known that if I hadn't seen a FB friend recommend this. So, take a chance with something a little different. I think you'll be happy you did.

Some reviews have mentioned the editing errors but I've read many self-published books and have long since put away my red pen. I've discovered that I'd much rather read a book that's interesting and fun than one that is perfectly edited but dry as toast.

GR friends, you know who you are: You can read about hot, sexy guys later. Put down your books and read this!!! Wait, I don't want to imply that Tony isn't sexy! He very well may be when he's not covered in animal shit. ;)

David Wailing says

If you're not much of a traveller, aren't interested in looking after (or running after) wild animals, and are far too sensible to get yourself into bizarre, life-threatening situations... read this book. Tony has done all of the above, so that you don't have to!

This is a funny and addictive telling of the author's escapades in Ecuador, mainly centred around a somewhat

ramshackle wildlife sanctuary. Assuming that every word of it is true, I'm not surprised that Tony was inspired to write a book about it. This is a proper adventure of the type that most of us will never experience. Although frankly I'm not too cut up about that, since Tony himself frequently gets cut up in a number of painful and humiliating ways, the poor sod!

The personalities of the wild animals are as well-drawn as those of the locals and the fellow travellers who come and go. I got a real sense of the Ecuadorian countryside and culture, and felt genuinely transported by the writing. Tony has a gift for self-deprecating humour and often comes out with giggle-worthy turns of phrase. I'd love to see him tackle a fictional story.

This is a very easy to read book, and since it's structured in small chapters almost like a series of very short stories, it's a good one to dip in and out of without getting lost. Recommended.

Beth Haslam says

When I read the title of this book by Tony James Slater I wasn't sure whether I would enjoy it or not. In fact I loved it, but not in a way that I had expected at all. It's true that I was giggling my head off even before I'd read halfway through the Preface, and thereafter I either smiled or chuckled on almost every page. But Tony makes many serious comments and observations too. These are interesting, and give the book an extra dimension.

This is the story of Tony's three-month volunteer stint at an animal refuge high up in the mountains of Ecuador. But it is no ordinary refuge. The farm is home sometimes permanently, and sometimes temporarily, to a diverse group of wild animals. Most of them have been maltreated and, as we learn, caring for them isn't easy. There isn't a dull moment as Tony relates his attempts to prove himself as a courageous macho-man, his innumerable incidents with the animals, then his colleague relationships and complicated love life.

I immediately warmed to Tony whose self-effacing, roguish personality comes through very strongly in his writing style. I admired his (often ill-advised) courage and bravado, his tenderness and affection toward the animals in his care, and disarming honesty. All these things make the colourful way in which he tells his story work extremely well. It is a fast-paced, raucously-humoured read which I found thoroughly entertaining.

Judy says

I stumbled on this book while browsing in the Kindle store and am I glad that I did. Tony James Slater was looking for opportunities to volunteer around the world, came across the Santa Martha Animal Rescue Center in Ecuador, and decided to spend a couple of months there. His description of that experience is a pure delight. This is a book that is laugh out loud funny, loaded with hysterical, tender, and heart-warming stories about the animals who have found refuge there, and a cautionary tale of why it might not be the best idea to arrive in a rural area of Ecuador with almost no Spanish language skills to draw on. But the fish out of water became a valued member of the team of volunteers working with the animals who had been abused and mistreated before being rescued and I'm sure that he was sorely missed after he left. This book also brings home the message of how much difference one person can make in this world. Now that I have

discovered Tony James Slater, I'm eagerly looking forward to reading his next book.

Jo says

I won a copy of this book in a giveaway from the author, Tony Slater, when he joined The Book Bosses <http://thebookbosses.blogspot.com/> for a Friday Night Foto Fight.

As a lover of all things british, I was a bit disappointed in myself. I had forgotten that "pants" in the UK does not mean what "pants" in the US means. I read nearly the entire book not truly appreciating the title. I loved this author, he cracked me up throughout the whole book. His one liners were top-notch. I laughed out loud quite a few times and had to read bits of it to my husband.

This book is about Tony Slater's experience volunteering at a wild animal rescue shelter in Ecuador. His description of the scenery made me want to go there. His description of the thugs and dangers made me want to stay snug and alive in my home. But I'm kind of a wimp. I have much respect for people who are brave enough to venture out and help in places like this animal rescue. I also have a lot of respect for the people where this is their livelihood. I love the idea of a gap year. People who take advantage of this have such opportunity! I wish wish wish it was more common here.

I love books that open my eyes to what it's like to live in different areas of the world. We know we have it good in the US but I think it's very easy to take what we have for granted. A book like this is a great reminder on perspective.

That Bear Ate My Pants! is also a great reminder not to take yourself too seriously. Again, Tony is hilarious. I can guarantee many good laughs throughout this book.

Sophie says

Another really funny book by Tony James Slater, I love reading his adventures!

Shannon Gambino says

After reading too many sci-fi and horror stories, I picked up "That Bear Ate My Pants!" and settled into my sofa for a light-hearted read. Tony Slater's commentary on his time spent volunteering in Ecuador was not only hysterical but filled with soulful recounts of friendship and love. From the moment he steps off the airplane in Ecuador with a couple of hours of the Spanish language under his belt until the time he boards the plane to head back to England, Tony captivates and draws you into his journey as he searches for something more meaningful in life than technology and a desk job. There were times I laughed so hard at some of the situations he got himself into that I had tears streaming down my face. He never backed down from a challenge, regardless of what it entailed. Other times, I wished I could hug him when he had to say good-bye to the animals, friends, and his Lady love. The whirlwind ride of volunteering in a foreign country can be difficult, but with the right attitude, it can change your entire life. I am looking forward to Tony Slater's next volunteering adventure and living vicariously through him!

Kate says

When I was much younger this book would probably have got 5 stars from me. Even in middle-age it would have got 4 stars if it hadn't been for some very basic schoolboy errors that distracted me from what I was reading and REALLY got on my nerves:

1 Spelling - my advice, don't trust spell-checkers: breathe and forth are real words. Unfortunately what was meant was breath and fourth.

2 Grammar - there were a handful of grammatical errors, including the use of the word "gotten" when it should have been "got" and "there's" when it should have been "there're" or better still "there are".

3 Punctuation - lots, and lots and lot's (oops, I mean lots) of incorrect apostrophes. Most importantly, please, please, PLEASE learn the difference between its and it's.

4 Language Timothy! I would have recommended this book to my 76 year old mother as it's right up her street if it wasn't for the huge quantity of bad language. I don't mind it in dialogue (after all, it's what people say) or at moments of stress such as the welding chapter. However, why do we need fucker this or shitting that? My mum wouldn't want to know that something was "stuck to him like shit to a blanket" and frankly, neither do I. It reads as if the book was written for an adolescent market, nothing wrong with that but a bit limiting, which is a shame as adults would enjoy it too if they weren't getting irritated with all the extraneous "noise" created by the issues highlighted above. At times it felt as if I was overhearing the teenagers in our local shopping precinct.

5 Galapagos Turtle - shouldn't that be a tortoise? Turtles live in the sea, tortoises on land.

Having said that, it made me laugh and outside the areas illustrated above, I thought it was well written with some lovely observations and very funny imagery. Get it properly edited and you may find you've got a modern day early Gerald Durrell style book on your hands.

Nathan says

This book was free on Amazon kindle and I don't think I would have bought it if it wasn't. If I had spent money on it I would have felt a bit disappointed.

It is the story of a young man who volunteers his services in an animal sanctuary in Ecuador. It is pretty slow in parts and didn't endear me to want to pick it back up.

On the plus side though some of the tales are pretty funny.

Nicole says

This book started out well. The author was witty if a bit goofy and definitely not cut out for working at an animal rescue in Ecuador. How does a grown man not know how to use a posthole digger? But unfortunately, while tales from the rescue were entertaining, the book soon dissolved into a recap of his pathetic love life

which involved an affair with a married woman whom he could barely communicate with because he never bothered to learn Spanish. My interest went downhill and I gave up at 81%.

Joo says

I have never been so disappointed to finish a book. I just wanted the stories to go on and on and on and on, but unfortunately Tony's trip had to end and so did the book.

I kind of wished the book had photos. The chapter where he meets the kinkajou and also the three-toed sloth really needed pictures, although I could well image them (once I'd looked up what a kinkajou was).

The book is set up in short chapters. That made it easy for picking up when you have a few minutes. But it made it hard to put down as you want to read "just one more chapter", "ok, just one more".

I know it's only February, but this is the best book so far this year and if I'd read it in December it would have been the best book in 2011. If you picked it up as a freebie, jump it to the top of your TBR list. It's worth it.

Sue says

Just a cute little story. Funny in parts

Cathy Speight says

This was probably one of the funniest books I have read. In fact, if I didn't have so many other books I want to read and enjoy, I'd probably go back to the beginning and read it all over again. But beware, it really is laugh-out-loud material. I would go so far as to say that I would recommend NOT reading this book whilst eating or drinking - snorting coffee and spraying your lunch around the place is most definitely not a good look and I would certainly not read this in a public place - trying to hide your hysterical laughter will probably result in those around you reaching for their phones and calling the men in white coats.

You can guess I really enjoyed this.

At a point in his early twenties, Tony was in limboland trying to decide what to do in his life that would provide him with some purpose: a few previous attempts hadn't quite provided him with the answers he was looking for. In pursuit of that lightbulb moment, he stumbled across a volunteer programme at an animal rescue centre in Ecuador: a refuge for animals rescued from cruelty. Without thinking twice about it, he signed up. What followed was for him a life-changing experience.

Tony Slater is very gifted at writing comically and laughter accompanied every page I read at the account of his daily routine looking after animals, birds and reptiles of all shapes and sizes and degrees of ferocity. Despite the tomfoolery of the writing, Tony never forgets the seriousness of the work carried out by the rescue centre, he never forgets to inform us of the beauty and uniqueness of Ecuador, and more importantly, never forgets to reveal not only how much the animals came to mean to him in the short time he was there,

but also how much the whole experience touched him.

This is one I will read again if I ever need cheering up. It's a guaranteed tonic.

Adina says

There is not much to say about this adventure story except that it was cute and funny (when Slater was not trying too hard). The author travels to Ecuador for three months to work in an animal rescue facility. He knows nothing about animal care (or how to weld) which will lead to a lot of funny moments. It is not the kind of book where you learn interesting information about animals and places but it is a nice account of his time spent with crazy and endearing animals (and people). I wished there were pictures because I did not hear of some of the species and I had to look them up. Also, I would have enjoyed to see how some of the characters (biped or not) looked.
