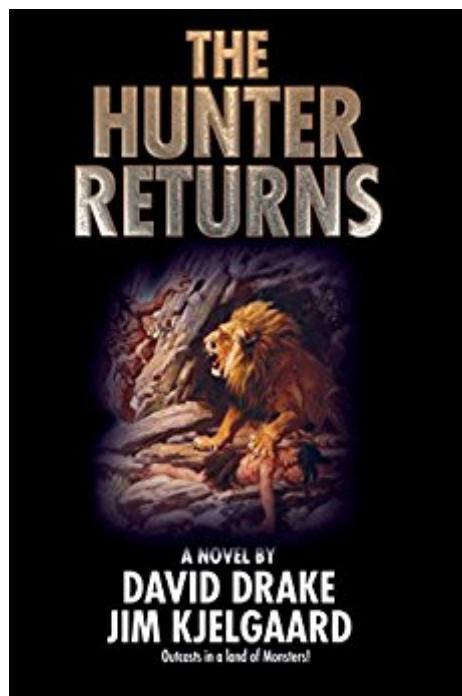


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The Hunter Returns



Synopsis

International best-selling science fiction author, David Drake teams with Jim Kjelgaard, legendary creator of Big Red. The Return of a Masterpiece of Middle Grade Fiction! OUTCASTS IN A LAND OF MONSTERS Meet Hawk, formerly a hunter in a band of prehistoric nomads, now an outcast for breaking tribal law by daring to create a powerful new tool: the bow and arrow. Now the world is changing, the bison are disappearing, and the tribe has fallen into famine. Their only hope? Hawk and his new tools and hunting methods. But the old ways die hard, and Hawk must find a way to survive in a land of prehistoric predators from dire wolves to beavers the size of bears if he is to save his tribe, and show humanity the path away from Stone Age stagnation. At the publisher's request, this title is sold without DRM (Digital Rights Management). David Drake was attending Duke University Law School when he was drafted. He served the next two years in the Army, spending 1970 as an enlisted interrogator with the 11th armored Cavalry in Viet Nam and Cambodia. Upon return he completed his law degree at Duke and was for eight years Assistant Town Attorney for Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He has been a full time freelance writer since 1981. His books include the genre defining and bestselling Hammers Slammers series, the RCN series including What Distant Deeps, In the Stormy Red Sky, The Road of Danger, and many more. Jim Kjelgaard's celebrated middle grade and young adult books display themes such as honor, loyalty, courage, and perseverance. His novel Wolf Brother is the winner of the Spur Award of the Western Writers of America. His Big Red, which won the Boys Life Award in 1948, also became a beloved Disney movie.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Written in 1951 for young readers, Jim Kjelgaard's fast moving adventure novel "Fire Hunter" took those readers to a time and place far removed from their everyday lives. Thousands of years ago a tribe of Paleolithic Hunter-Gathers are on the hunt. Their quarry is a herd of long-horned bison positioned just right for a fire-drive over a nearby cliff. With this opening salvo Kjelgaard began a tale of men and women fighting for survival in a harsh, unforgiving world. "Fire Hunter" was an immediate hit with both teens and preteens of the 50's, and quite a few adults as well. The tribal spear-maker, Hawk, is banished for violating a traditional law and he, along with an injured woman, Willow, are cast out to die alone in the wilderness. As the rest of the tribe moves off, Hawk and Willow have little hope of survival. I originally discovered this book at our school library in the early 50's and was mesmerized by its tense, violent narrative. Since that time I have reread the story many times and each reading was as satisfying as before. Two of my favorite books from that time period were "Tarzan of the Apes" and "The White Panther" so this book, "Fire Hunter", fit right in with my needs. Now, flash forward 40 years. "Fire Hunter" had been out of print for several years and was increasingly hard to find in libraries and old book stores. Then, in 1990, noted science fiction writer David Drake took up the helm and expanded Kjelgaard's story line to include what happened to the other tribe members after they abandoned Hawk and Willow. The novel was renamed "The Hunter Returns". All of Kjelgaard's original text is intact and, with Drake's added narrative, the story is retold from two different points of view. A common complaint from some readers is that Hawk, like Ayala in "Clan of the Cave Bear", seemed to invent everything as the need arose. But careful readers will notice that's not entirely true. First of all there's the throwing-stick (Atlatl). Turns out Hawk did not invent that. Hawk's father got the Atlatl from an old spear-maker of another tribe and kept it's magic secret while he trained Hawk in the art of weapon making. He died before sharing that secret with his son. Although Hawk kept the "magic stick" after

his father's death he had no idea of its potential use. Be sure to read Kjelgaard's "Foreword" where he explains how he had to "telescope time" in his story line and addresses the issue of Hawk's discoveries. Drake also notes in his "afterword" that some of the animals mentioned are native to North American while others are European species and suggests the reader view this as an Alternative History novel. In any case, both authors tell the story in a plausible, believable way. Each author was and is a talented, accomplished writer, each with his own style and way of telling a story. Kjelgaard had several award winning books to his credit, most of them about animals or outdoorsmen, and was quite successful during his long career. Drake who is popular with both teenager and adult readers, also has many award winning books in his impressive lineup and did a masterful job of expanding "Fire Hunter" with added material. Combined "The Hunter Returns" moves seamlessly between the two authors for a stirring epic of early men and women and their struggle for survival. The original hardback edition of "Fire Hunter" had many fine illustrations by noted nature artist Ralph Ray Jr. Too bad the publishers of the Kindle edition, Baen Books, did not see fit to add Ray's art back into the story. The only illustration for the Kindle edition is the cover art by famous wildlife artist Charles R Knight. With or without illustrations this is still a good read. So don't be put off by whatever scientific errors you may or may not see, "The Hunter Returns" is exciting Pulp Fiction and should be read, and enjoyed as such. I had no downloading or formatting problems with this Kindle edition.

Last Ranger

Very happy to find this book. I read this at 11 years old and still find it interesting. One could consider it a Historic Novel, just many thousands of years ago. Part of America that is not considered very often. A tribute to the mavericks around us we owe some much, but choose to ignore.

My high rating is more based on the Jim Kjelgaard parts than anything else. Fire-Hunter has been my hands-down favorite book since I was in fifth grade more than 50 years ago; I've read it at least once every couple of years since then, and I'd always wondered what exactly happened to Wolf and Kar and all the rest of the tribe after leaving Hawk and Willow to banishment. Now I know. Sure, some of the things that happen to that little band of hunter/gatherers shouldn't happen to a wild dog and some stretch my willing suspension of disbelief beyond where a sinew would snap. Still, David Drake brought back characters that I love more than any other in all of fiction, and that's worth a 5-star rating any day!

I read this a long time ago as a pre-teen. I enjoyed the story then and I enjoyed the story now. I would recommend it to readers of any age

I thought the story was familiar and when I read part of this book I knew why. I had read it when I was a young teen. At least part of it. The improved and expanded story was a delight to read. Even at my advanced age it was enjoyable. No matter if any science errors. Just read this for the pure enjoyment of an adventure story of survival. It just doesn't get any better. Don't pass this book up. Because when you do read it, you will regret having passed on it the first time. Just enjoy.

One of the best young adventure books ever written. The Hunter and the Hunter Returns were as pivotal to my childhood as Tom Sawyer, Robinson Crusoe, and any of the Jack London series

have read the original many times over my life and given it to all of my many grand kids and kids

great rewrite of classic from my jr. high school....Drake has done a masterful job of fleshing out the original story.

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