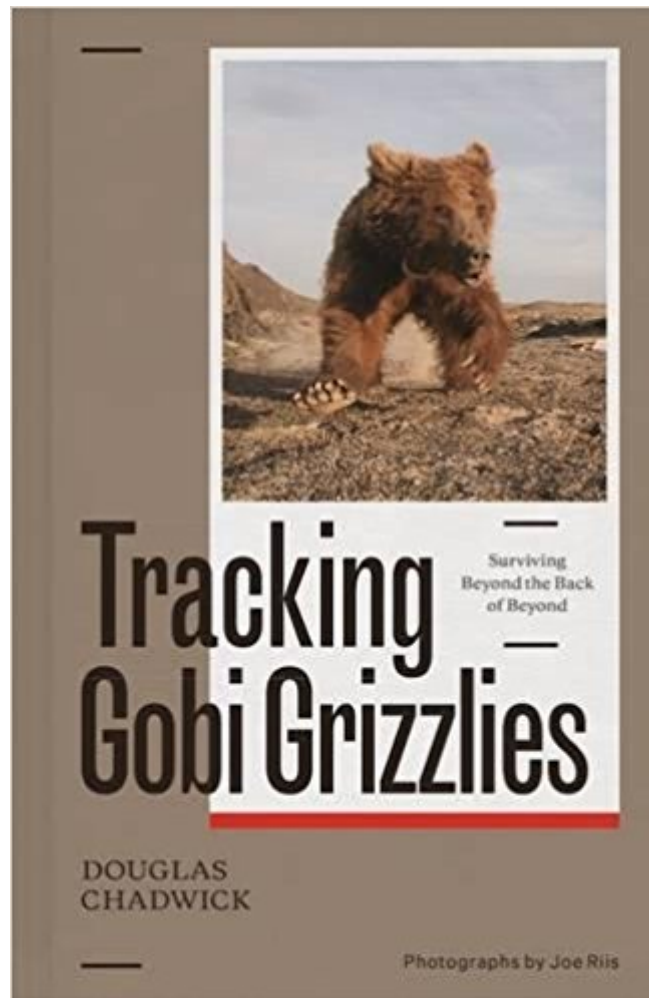




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# Tracking Gobi Grizzlies: Surviving Beyond The Back Of Beyond



## Synopsis

In the tradition of Douglas Chadwick's best-selling adventure memoir, *The Wolverine Way*, *Tracking Gobi Grizzlies* creates a portrait of these rarest of bears' fight for survival in one of the toughest, most remote settings on Earth. He demonstrates why saving this endangered animal supports an entire ecosystem made up of hundreds of interconnected plants and animals, from desert roses to Asiatic lynx and wild double-humped camels, all adapting as best they can to the effects of climate change. A parable of environmental stewardship in a legendary realm.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Honorable Mention, 2016 Foreword Indies Awards, Ecology and Environment  
Honorable Mention, 2016 Foreword Indies Awards, Pets & Animals  
In a remote and pitiless desert on the other side of the world from North America lives a bear that science understands only poorly so far and the general public isn't aware of at all," writes wildlife biologist Douglas Chadwick. "One of the scarcest creatures on the planet, it is a type of grizzly so extraordinary that its existence is hard to imagine even after you get to its homeland; in fact, especially after you get to its homeland." The Great Gobi Desert, one of the five largest deserts on the earth, covers half a million square miles, and with rainfall averaging a mere four to six inches per year and temperatures that soar to 122 degrees Fahrenheit in summer and drop to as low as minus 40 in winter, it is not the most comfortable place to track, capture, and radio-collar grizzlies. But time is of the essence if this unique subspecies is to be saved; Gobi grizzlies are now the rarest bears in the world, with only three to four dozen remaining. For a month every spring since 2005, the Gobi Bear Project team

has been catching and radio-collaring these grizzlies. Though Chadwick and the other members of the Gobi Bear Project know that saving these big, unruly, long-eared, shaggy, fun-loving, chocolate-colored, bronze, or golden Gobi grizzly bears will not change the world, it will at least keep them in it. That alone would make their work worthwhile, not to mention wild motorcycle rides through the astounding stony landscape and the thrill of discovering a bear in one of their traps. "Here's the deal with most of us grown-up naturalists," Chadwick writes. "While we can toss around Latin names and biological principles, there's a huge part of us that's still just an eleven-year-old on a treasure hunt." (Foreword Magazine) Gold Award Winner, 2017 IBPA Benjamin Franklin Awards, Animals and Pets category

"Chadwick has coaxed a page-turning story out of one of the world's roughest places." "Joel Sartore, National Geographic photographer and founder of The Photo Ark" "This is, without a doubt, the finest book about desert-dwelling grizzly bears I've ever read." "Jimmy Kimmel, Emmy nominated host of Jimmy Kimmel Live, ABC's late-night talk show" More than just a depiction of one species, this book highlights the interconnectedness of all species and man's obligation to protect them, in any location. "Jeff Bridges, Actor and Activist" Tracking Gobi Grizzlies is classic Chadwick: humorous, humble, intellectually stimulating, surprising, moral and wise. "Rick Bass, Activist and Author of The Lost Grizzlies" "It's useful and inspiring to learn of this unique population of a branch of *Ursus arctos* holding on in such a forbidding niche. A remarkable text." "Gary Snyder, Poet and Activist" "A great and heartening adventure" "it makes one hopeful to know these bears simply exist, amid the vast harsh beauty of the Gobi." "Bill McKibben, author Earth

This book is a trip worth taking, and on so many levels--the bears themselves, the researchers and their motivations, the historical and scientific asides...the bears' situation. It is also very funny--the mix of cultures, the incredible climate and the personal discomfort that these humans are willing to endure in order to try and improve the odds for these bears' survival. I'm on my second reading, finding treasures like this: "While science can't quite bring itself to say that grizzlies like to goof...". Read the book, it will bring you deep into another world within our world, the Gobi itself and its very special bears. Your own caring will be re-energized by this fast-moving multi-level story.

Why the low rating? NOT due to the subject or author--I have most if not all of Doug Chadwick's books and love them all!! I haven't actually read this one yet--why? I ordered a HARDBACK copy(all that was available other than a Kindle option, according to the available editions), but I got a

paperback. No biggie, EXCEPT, all the many, many great photos illustrating this book ALL HAVE THE SAME INACCURATE caption--maddening! So I want to wait and try to actually get a good copy without this aggravating defect, which really spoils the book. But I'm a bit trap-shy just now..... So be warned! There's a knock-off defective paperback copy being sold!

Wonderful book and amazing natural history. Broadened my appreciation of all bears and in particular Grizzly bears!

Great gift idea!

I found, "A Chronicle of Mongols, Ninjas, Vodka, Gold, and the World's Rarest Bears", written on the back. I think that this would be the most apropos description of this book. The way this book managed to introduce me to an utterly foreign land, home to an animal previously unbeknownst to me, was one of my favorite reads in a long while. It's hard to come across a work of true fiction that reads more like a wild, vividly-dreamed, badass adventure. This was a phenomenal read accompanied by astonishing photos.

Tracking Gobi Grizzlies by Douglas H. Chadwick is an amazing discovery, offering a look into the world's rarest and most threatened bear species. The author takes us on a rugged adventure of both vigorous exploration and research, with thoughtful glimpses of history, biology, geography and potential influences of climate change. Deep in the elemental, mountainous Gobi Desert habitat of Mongolia, sheer rock carved by ferocious winds, we learn about the mysterious lives of animals that have adapted to one of the harshest environments on our earth. This is a book that those who love to learn about "unknown" places and species will treasure---and would make a great gift! (It is also a book that this reviewer will enjoy re-reading!)

Another great effort by Nat Geo photographer Joe Riis and his friends in conservation. These bears are extremely rare; almost no photos had ever been taken and many local natives had never seen one. The stuff of legend. But as usual Joe tracked the bears and got the images... all while respecting both the bears and the warm smiles of the welcoming people who manage to survive in this uncharted wilderness. You will love the moonscape photography of a truly remote part of the world, where these few remaining bears scratch out an existence. Well done Joe Riis.

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