



Štěpánka Sekaninová • Adam Wolf

A Nature  
Survival Guide

Written by Štěpánka Sekaninová

**WHAT TO DO IF YOU MEET A BEAR?**

Illustrated by Adam Wolf



# WHAT TO DO IF YOU MEET A BEAR?



ALBATROS



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### POINT 3

Water problem solved! But there's still no sign of rescuers. It seems you have no choice but to spend the night in the wilderness. As evening falls, you begin to feel cold. You must warm yourself up. You need a fire! If you happen to have a fire striker, you're all set. If you don't, find two pieces of quartz and rub them together.








Don't worry if you can't find quartz. You can also start a fire by rubbing a stick against another piece of wood. But both rubbing methods are incredibly hard and demand a great deal of patience. Still, you must persevere!



Brilliant! Your fire is contained within a ring of stones, so that it doesn't set the forest alight. Now you must build a primitive shelter to spend the night in.

Always surround your fire with stones to prevent it from spreading.



<p>Kindling (dry grass)</p> <p><b>C</b></p> 	<p>Kindling (dry twigs)</p> 	<p>Put the stick in the hole to turn the log . . .</p> 	<p>As soon as smoke appears, add the kindling.</p> 	<p>Kindling can also be lit by rubbing two pieces of quartz together.</p> 	<p>Without tinder (C) made of dry plants or twigs, you won't get a fire started. But where will you find it in wet conditions? Look for a secluded place – under an overhanging rock, for instance.</p>
<p>stick</p> 	<p>log with hole</p> 				

## POINT 4



Improvised shelters such as caves, rock overhangs, haystacks, and hunting blinds require no work on your part. But if no such shelter is in view, you'll need to make a shelter out of tree branches. If you do find a cave, beware! It may be home to an animal that doesn't wish to share it with you!



Don't build your shelter where water may collect.



The top of a hill is exposed to possible wind and lightning.



Are there many old or dead trees around? One might fall on your shelter . . .



Find two trees and wedge a long leafy branch between them. Lean other large branches against this before adding more leaves for warmth and insulation. If you can find enough of the right kind of branch, get lots of them and make them into a big pile for a comfortable bed.

You may be surprised to learn that snow is a great insulator. People who live in frozen places build their shelters – igloos – with it.



Do you need to spend the night in a snowy place? Well, just use the snow that's around you! A layer of snow over the branches of your shelter will keep it warm enough. If there is a lot of snow, you can make your whole shelter out of it!

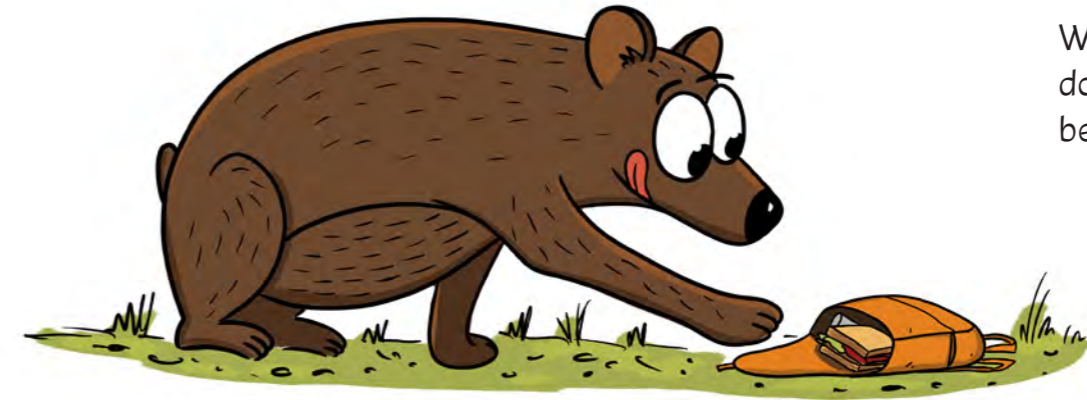


# WHAT TO DO IF YOU MEET A BEAR



Uh-oh – a bear. But they haven't noticed you. Leave as quietly as you can, watching the bear from the corner of your eye to check what they're doing.

People try to avoid encounters with bears. And bears are keen to avoid people: they may have the strength of ten men, sharp claws and teeth, but still they are afraid of us. Unfortunately, when they do meet us, they feel threatened, and so tend to defend themselves. Therefore, it is necessary to be cautious around a bear and convince them that we mean them no harm.



Whatever you do, don't try to scare the bear away!

The bear has stood up on their hind legs. Keep a cool head, though. When a bear stands, they are just trying to get a better sense of things, that's all . . . They find their way around mainly by smell.



Oh dear. A bear has noticed you! Whatever you do, don't look them in the eye – they will take this as an invitation to attack. Retreat slowly, ideally sideways. Do not lose sight of the bear. Do not make any sudden movements, least of all a mad dash for it!



Oh no! The bear is about to attack. Kneel down and curl into a ball. If they are a grizzly, this is the only way to divert their attention. If they are a black bear, try intimidation: wave your arms, shout, clap, and bang on whatever is handy.



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU MEET A BUCK

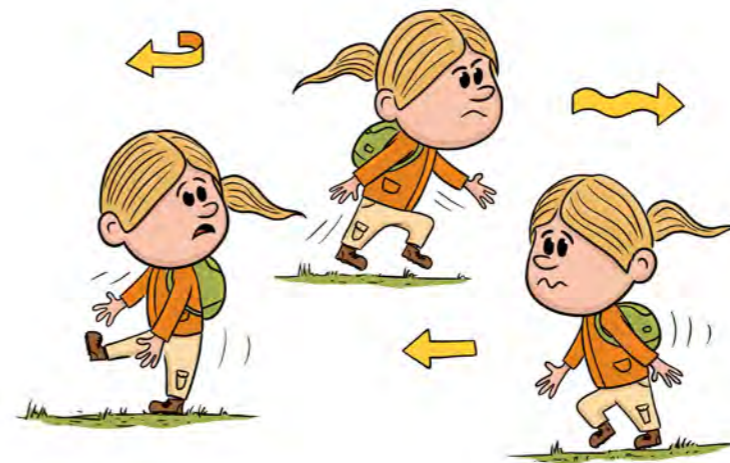
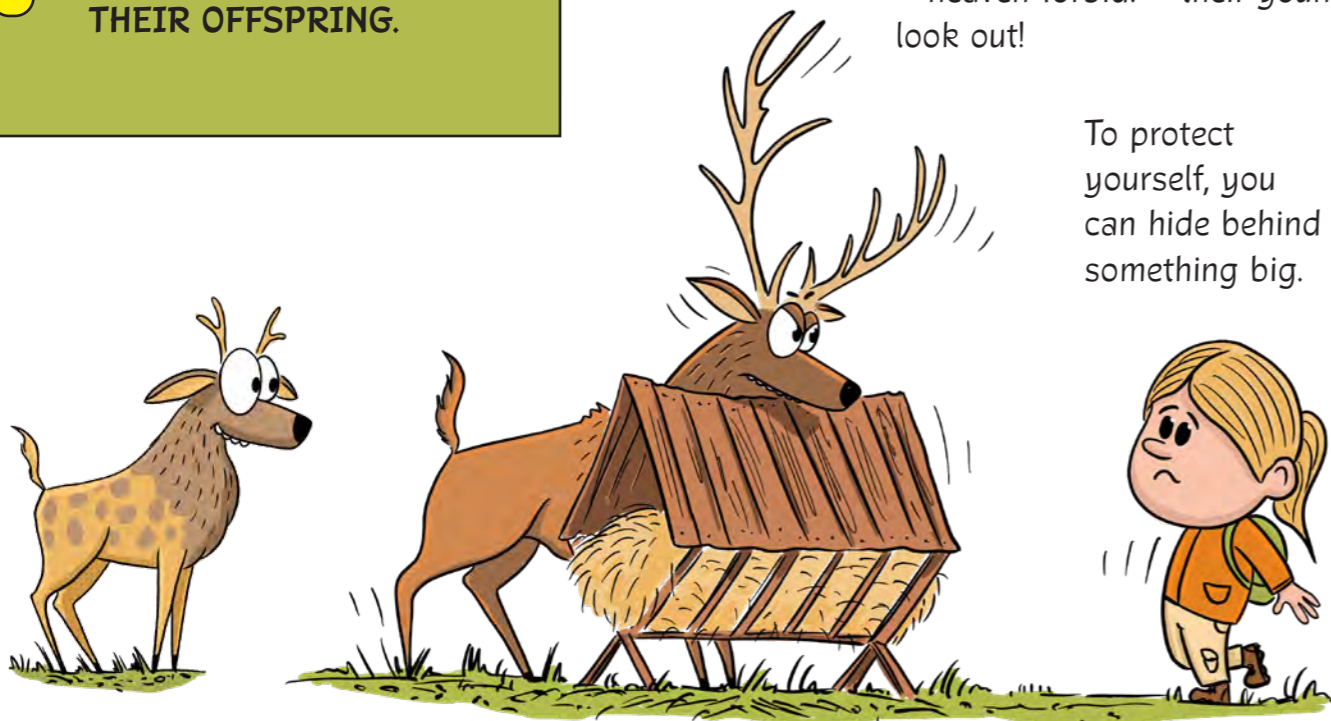
A buck (a male deer) is a majestic animal. Although it is not a predator, a blow from its hooves or a poke from its pointed antlers is no joke. So what should you do if you are unlucky enough to cross one's path?



**NEVER APPROACH FAWNS (BABY DEER) ON THEIR OWN. YOU CAN BE SURE THAT THEIR PARENTS WILL BE NEARBY, FULLY PREPARED TO FIGHT FOR THEIR OFFSPRING.**

Believe it or not, bucks are timid. Given the choice, they will run away from you. But if they feel that you are a threat to them or – heaven forbid! – their young, look out!

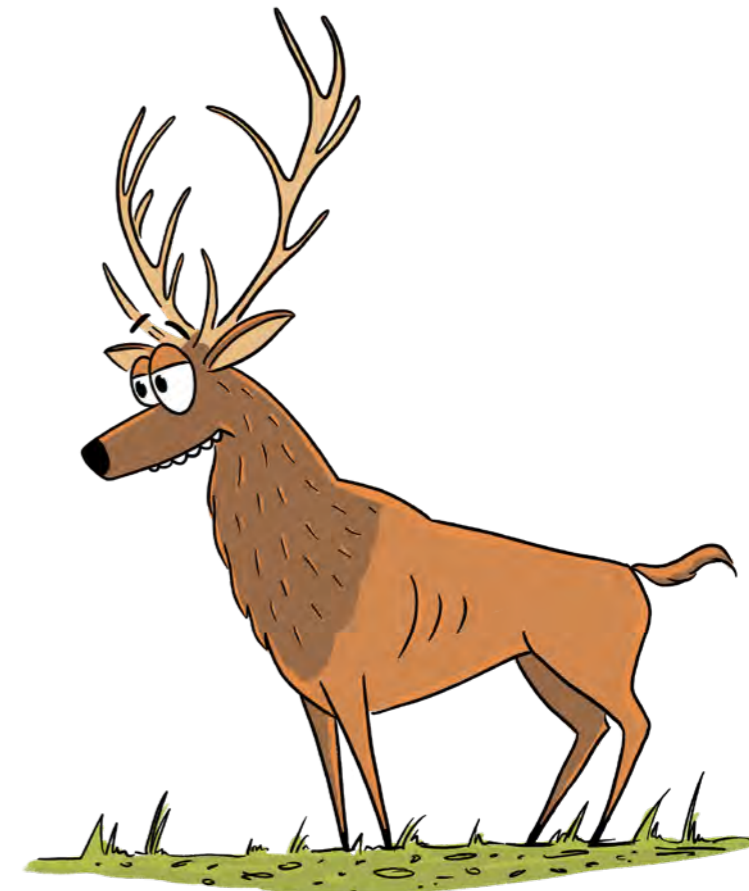
To protect yourself, you can hide behind something big.



On encountering a stag, retreat slowly and keep changing direction. This strategy will confuse them.



If there's nowhere to hide, try to look bigger than the stag.



Raise your hands above your head and wave your jacket. Make yourself appear bigger than you actually are to the buck. If nothing else can be done, climb a tree.



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU MEET AN ELK

Elk are not aggressive predators, but it is best to keep your distance from them and their mighty antlers. If the elk you encounter is hungry, scared, or out of sorts, they may be a threat.

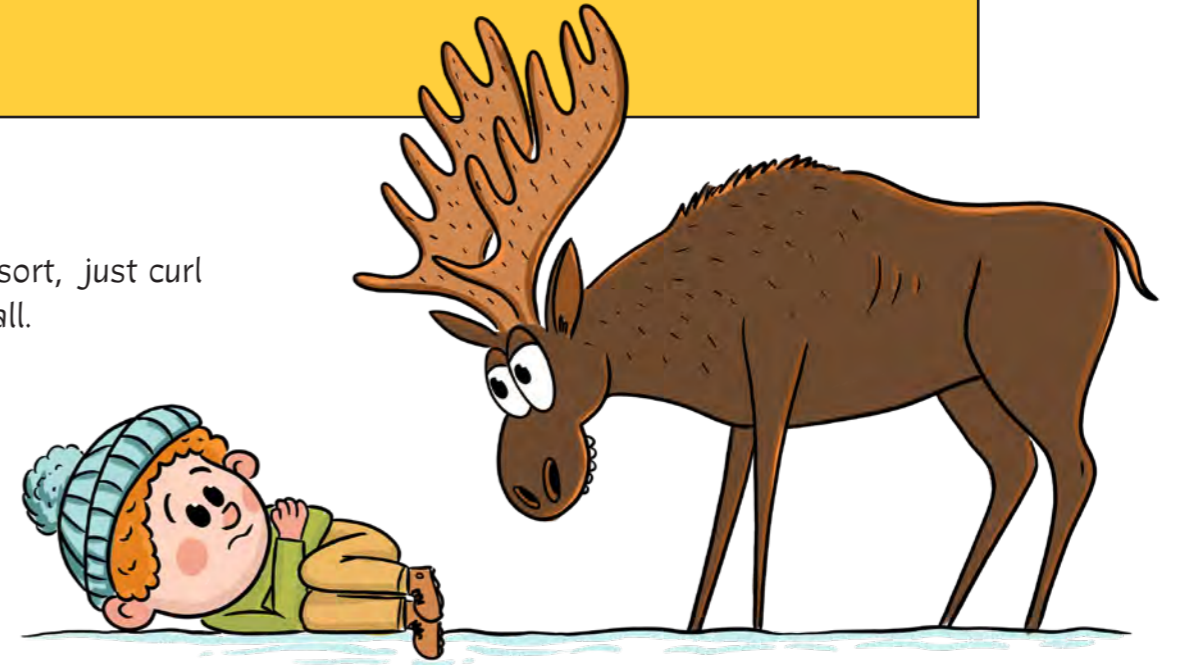
When an elk pins back their ears, bristles the fur on their neck, licks themselves, and growls, it is no time to play the hero.

An elk can be over six feet tall!



As with a buck, make sure that there is some kind of obstacle between you and an elk – specifically its hooves. If you happen to fall as you run, curl up and protect your head. Stay this way until the elk goes away. Otherwise, it might attack again.

As a last resort, just curl up into a ball.



An elk licking itself, with its ears pinned back and its neck fur bristling, is preparing to attack. Gather your strength and run away! It won't take the elk long to catch you!

Off into the wild we go! Hurray! There's nothing else like nature. The body is in motion and the soul rejoices. But if we get lost out there, and we can't find our way, what can we do? Heaven forbid we should meet a bear, a bull, an alligator or a venomous snake. If we do, though, how should we act to save our skin? Well, above all, we must keep a cool head. It's also important to know a few useful rules – like the ones described and humorously illustrated in this book. So if you are preparing a trip into the wild, it wouldn't be a bad idea to peek inside this book.



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