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Never Say Die

WILL HOBBS
NEVER SAY DIE

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In this fast-paced adventure story set in the Canadian arctic, fifteen-year-old Inuit hunter Nick Thrasher comes face-to-face with a fearsome creature on a routine caribou hunt gone wrong. Part grizzly, part polar bear, this environmental mutant has been pegged the “grolar bear” by wildlife experts. Nick may have escaped this time, but it won’t be his last encounter. Then Nick’s estranged half-brother, Ryan, offers to take him on a rafting trip down a remote part of the Firth River. But when disaster strikes, the two narrowly evade death. They’re left stranded without supplies and then the grolar bear appears. Will Hobbs brings his singular style to this suspenseful story about two brothers fighting for survival against the unpredictable and sometimes deadly whims of nature.

**Book Information**

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (26 customer reviews)


Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Will Hobbs Never Say Die, is an excellent if fairly short read. Though this is the first time I have read Mr. Hobbs work it will not be the last, the story was well written and informative as well. We start out with young Nick Thrasher part white and part Intuit, though Nick does all he can to forget his white heritage until the day he receives a letter from his half brother in Arizona known about but never have met. Nick learns Ryan is a photographer wanting to travel down the Firth and see if they can
see any large herds of Caribou as they migrate. Nick thinks the whole idea is crazy and there are no
great herds any more. Jonah, Nick's grandfather and world thinks it would be a good idea for Nick to
go, to learn of his brother and to see the great herd if it is there, the ones Jonah remembers from his
younger days. So Nick agrees and starts off on an adventure full of learning and danger. Nick
recently has had a brush with some kind of bear he learns they are calling a grolar bear, part Grizzly
part polar bear. As Ryan and Nick learn of one another and about one another as Ryan is from the
believe of prove it with science and Nick's believe coming from living off the land and learning to live
with the land. The two have much to share and learn as they embark on an adventure of a life
time. This story was great from middle school boys or anyone that enjoys a great outdoor story. It is
a mixture of fact and fiction one of learning to survive and learning that man has brought havoc to
the world around him and nature has her own way of turning the tide. The hybrid bear in this story is
real as is the changing weather in the arctic all caused by climate change.

On thing that bothered me about this book was that the author obviously didn't know much about
nature. This was confirmed in the Author’s Note at the end, which indicated that all the knowledge
he had about the book's setting was based on one or two vacations he took there. Perhaps this
wasn't such a big deal, but I had just finished reading a book by Gary Paulsen, who was born and
raised in the forest with little to no outside contact for most of his life. He based the events in
"Hatchet" almost exclusively on his own experiences. As you have probably already guessed, I
totally recommend Paulsen's books. I cannot say the same for Will Hobbs' "Never Say Die." I almost
never skip through sections of a story, but at least two thirds (if not more) of this book was spend on
detailing the horrors of global warming. I really do not mind reading people's opinions on political
issues, and I was halfway through the book before I really realized how excessive it was getting.
The main character's brother is a photographer who wants to write a magazine article about climate
change in the arctic. I though that was great at first, liking the idea of a reporter who was dedicated
enough to travel across the world in order to get the information himself. I didn't realize that twice as
much information about global warming research would be crammed into the book than would ever
be allowed in an actual article. All of it took the form of awkward, forced dialog. The plot also had a
heavy political lean to it. ***Spoilers in this paragraph*** The main character does not bring his rifle
along due to the quickly-adopted belief that shooting an animal is wrong.

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