



Overboard!

Terry Lynn Johnson , Jani Orban (Illustrations)

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A high-stakes adventure series perfect for fans of the I Survived series and Hatchet. Eleven-year-old Travis and his family are on a whale watch off the coast of Washington when disaster strikes. The boat capsizes, throwing everyone into the ice-cold chaotic waves. Separated from their families and struggling to stay afloat, Travis and twelve-year-old Marina must use all of their grit and knowledge to survive.

With seventeen years of hands-on experience and training in remote areas, survival expert Terry Lynn Johnson (*Ice Dogs; Sled Dog School*) creates on-the-edge-of-your-seat storytelling featuring the real skills that kids need to survive a disaster. This book includes Coast Guard-approved cold-water survival tips; you may have a better chance of surviving a real-life cold-water disaster after reading this book.

Stay calm. Stay smart. Survive.

Overboard! Details

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Author : Terry Lynn Johnson , Jani Orban (Illustrations)

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Genre : Adventure, Childrens, Middle Grade, Fiction, Survival, Juvenile, Action, Realistic Fiction

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From Reader Review Overboard! for online ebook

Kathie says

This is the first book in an adventure series that is high-action, fast-paced, and extremely accessible at just under 100 pages. I'll be buying them all for my library, and I think they will really appeal to kids who are not quite ready for the I Survived and Can You Survive series.

Pam ?Because Someone Must Be a Thorn? Tee says

~ review copy provided

OVERBOARD is the first book in a series that is really going to appeal to kids who are looking for adventure books. [The book is at Lexile 540L. There is not Accelerated Reader info available right now.]

The story is about a whale watching cruise out into the waters off Washington state. That's pretty interesting in itself, but matters get totally out of hand when the small vessel is capsized and Travis, our main character, finds himself in the heat sapping waves drifting away from everyone else...

~

I think the writing in this book is top notch and the story is very engaging. So if older siblings are reading and loving Gary Paulsen's HATCHET, you can hand younger readers OVERBOARD and not feel like you've short changed them. Both books are excellent and feature surprise, a sense of mild danger and the can-do spirit of adventure.

Besides the adventure one of the things that kids are going to love are the survival tips, which range from the dangers of hypothermia and what to do to combat it, to how to start a fire with a magnesium block. Parents, on the other hand, are going to like that Travis has to overcome his surprise, and dare we say shock, at being in this situation, as well as his own self doubts. The power of just focusing on one step at a time is definitely put on display.

There is a girl, Marina, in this story. She's the captain's daughter and she and Travis are flung together. She can't do much physically to aid their situation because she's injured, but her contributions of knowledge were absolutely necessary for their survival.

I find myself very enthusiastic about this series. With OVERBOARD's good writing, survival details, and good plotting -- I would have never guessed the final solution that led to the kids' rescue -- I think this is going to be a series that kids are going to gobble up, and that teachers are going to want on their shelves.

Ms. Yingling says

E ARC from Edelweiss Above the Treeline

Travis and his family are on a boat off the coast of Washington State on a whale watching expedition run by

Marina and her father. When a wave capsizes the boat, the two children get swept away from everyone else. Marina knows water safety since she has worked on the family boat, and the two finally make it to a small island. There, they continue to use their survival skills to stay warm, start a fire, and find a way to alert people where they are. Travis must manage to overcome his fear of heights in order help the two survive. Strengths: This was a great, fast-paced book that fans of Tarshis' *I Survived* series will gobble up! While that series seems to revolve around children surviving by accident, *Overboard!* shows how Travis and Marina deliberately use their knowledge and skills to survive. This also had survival tips from the Coast Guard at the end of the book, providing readers with useful information! The next book in the series is *Avalanche!*, which should be good as well. Johnson's experience in the outdoors shines through in this.

Weaknesses: I could have done without the artifice of the reporter interviewing Travis at the beginning of the book, but I think this will tie all of the volumes together. Also, I was disappointed this wasn't *Ice Dogs*, which was just brilliant. *Overboard* will find more readers, but *Ice Dogs* was just brilliantly written.

What I really think: Definitely purchasing this whole series, because the books will never be on the shelves!

Reading is my Escape says

Overboard (Survivor Diaries) by Terry Lynn Johnson

"Tell me how you survived the whale attack," the reporter said.

- opening lines

Could you survive if the whale watching boat you were on capsized and you were left floating in the cold ocean? Travis and Marina are in just such a situation. Luckily, Travis is wearing an immersion suit, and Mariana has survival supplies in her vest (and a lot of knowledge). All they have to do is stay out of the water, find land, and get rescued. Simple, right?

So, this is a good book, but the plot is a little thin. Things resolve a bit too easily for me, but I don't think kids will mind. At the end of the book, there is a section with "U.S. Coast Guard-Approved Cold Water Survival Tips" which kids will probably find very cool and informative.

It's about 100 pages, easy to read and about survival, kids will love it.

Recommended to: Grades 3-5 (and some second graders), fans of the *I Survived* series, adventure fans, reluctant readers

Jen says

Quick read. Interesting as well as informative on how to increase your chances of survival in cold water. Simply written, appropriate for the age range of young to middle readers, starting at seven I would say on up. 4 educational stars. Definitely recommended.

Mortisha Cassavetes says

I won this book in a giveaway and I am so glad I did. I very much enjoyed the story and how it was unique featuring kids that survived unforeseen tragedy. The story follows a boy named Travis who went with his family whale watching and how a nice family trip turned cataclysmic. I don't want to say much more as not to spoil the story since it is a short read but it was packed with adventure, survival and tips & tricks. I hope to get to read the other books in this series. I would recommend this book to everyone of all ages.

Patricia Tilton says

A fast-paced adventure series for children about survival in extreme elements. Overboard is the first book in Johnson's series, with Avalanche!, Lost! and Dust Storm! to follow. Pen and ink drawings add to the drama at sea.

Johnson's plot is realistic, engaging and the tension palpable. Overboard focuses on Travis and Marina using skills they know after their site-seeing boat capsizes in icy waters and on shore until help arrives. What do you do first? How much time do you have before hypothermia sets in? How do you stay calm? What skills do you need most?

I predict this series will have huge kid-appeal because the element of danger and the universal need to know what to do if you are unexpectedly caught in a situation where your life depends upon what you know.

Ampersand Inc. says

This was a great read! I can't remember reading a book so fast as I wanted to see how they would be rescued. Amazingly, this is inspired by a true story. Wow!

Jamie says

4 stars for kids

I think kids in grades 2-5 will enjoy this book (as well as the others in the series). Short, easy to read, and has illustrations through out. Great for struggling readers with action and adventure.

Marcia says

I was anxious to check out this series after reading that it was a good fit for all the kids who love the "I Survived" series. Where "I Survived" focuses on historical events, the "Survivor Diaries" focuses on nature. I loved it! This is definitely a one-sitting book--heart pounding and page turning. Perfect for 3-5th graders. You will be very, very careful the next time you go on a whale watch!

I loved that the author included useful survival tips from the U.S. Coast Guard in the back and has

downloadable survival quiz cards on her website. Stay Calm. Stay smart. Survive!

Margaret says

I have been a fan of Terry Lynn Johnson since reading her previous books *Ice Dogs* and *Dogsled Dreams*. She loves the outdoors, adventure and nature which shows in her writing. *Overboard* is not just an adventure story but a learning experience at the same time, with survival tips and the dangers of the outdoors, appealing to both boys and girls.

The day begins peacefully for 11-year-old Travis when his family takes a whale watching excursion off the coast of Washington. A rogue wave capsizes the boat separating the family. Along with 12-year-old Marina the two struggle to survive. They learn how strong they really are when that is the only direction they can go. Taken from real life situations this is a great adventure story of courage, survival and determination.

I never thought I could do that. I did it when I wasn't busy thinking I couldn't. I just did it. Seemed to me, the thing about surviving something is believing you can.

Cee says

Young Travis is thrown overboard when their ship is hit with a rogue wave. He and Marina attempt to swim to an island close by but it is difficult for her as she has a broken wrist. It is all danger and struggle from that point on and middle grade readers will be captivated by the survival aspect of the novel. Recommended for early readers and reluctant who enjoy Hatchet-style fiction.

Kyle Robertson says

My eight year old daughter devoured the "I Survived" books. This new series "Survivor Diaries" is sure to be a favorite for kids who enjoy survival stories. This story draws the reader in and engages them with the characters and the story. There are also nice illustrations throughout. What I really like is how the book educates the young reader on what to do if they ever find themselves in a similar situation, such as survival skills, endurance, and conquering your fears. In fact, the book ends with a section titled US Coast Guard Approved Cokd Water Survival Tips that is very informative and practical.

I would recommend this book to anyone that enjoys good survival stories, appropriate for children 8 and up. I received this as a free ARC from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Children's Book Group on NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Jody says

This is one of a series by Canadian author Terry Lynn Johnson who has lived much of what she writes. It's a

quick read at a hundred pages with lots of action. I'm certain my fifth graders will eat this up right quick!

Janis Kay says

This was really good!!! Provides practical knowledge and engages the reader with a gripping story of survival
