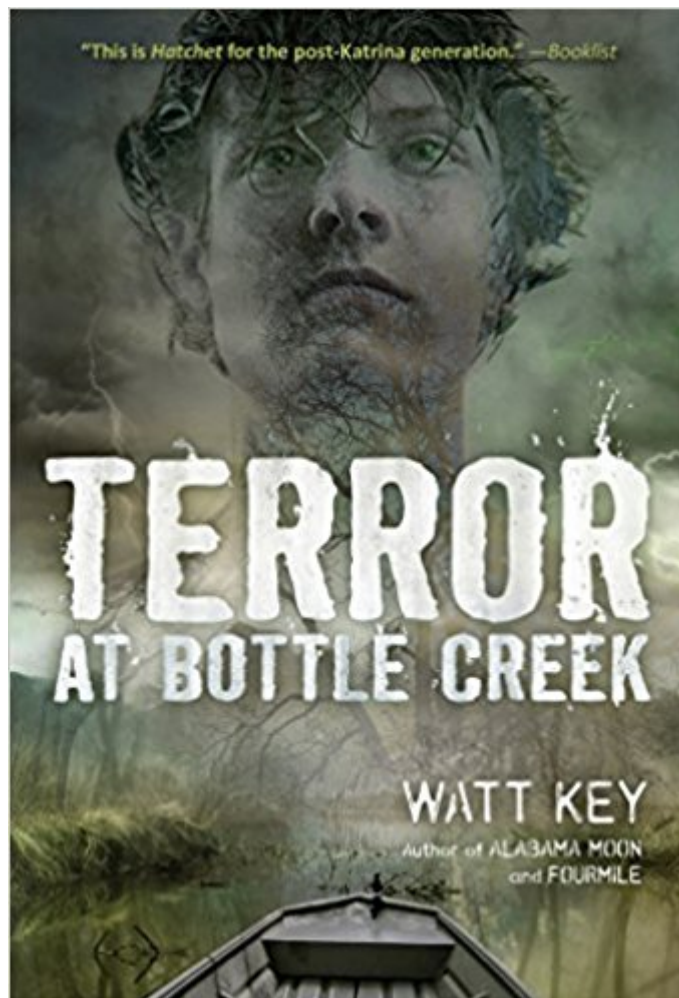


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# Terror At Bottle Creek



## Synopsis

Terror at Bottle Creek by Watt Key is a harrowing survival story set in a gripping, man vs. nature situation. "This is Hatchet for the post-Katrina generation, and it's sure to find an audience." • Booklist In this gritty, realistic wilderness adventure, thirteen-year-old Cort is caught in a battle against a Gulf Coast hurricane. Cort's father is a local expert on hunting and swamp lore in lower Alabama who has been teaching his son everything he knows. But when a deadly Category 3 storm makes landfall, Cort must unexpectedly put all his skills and bravery to the test. One catastrophe seems to lead to another, leaving Cort and two neighbor girls to face the storm as best they can. Amid miles of storm-thrashed wetlands filled with dangerous, desperate wild animals, it's up to Cort to win or lose the fight for their lives. This is a thrilling survivalist story by Watt Key, the author of Alabama Moon, Dirt Road Home, and Hideout. This title has Common Core connections.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 650 (What's this?)

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Square Fish; Reprint edition (January 10, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1250104211

ISBN-13: 978-1250104212

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.7 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #23,786 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Marriage & Divorce #88 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Boys & Men #121 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Parents

Age Range: 10 - 13 years

Grade Level: 5 - 8

## Customer Reviews

"This is Hatchet for the post-Katrina generation, and it's sure to find an audience." •

• Booklist "A harrowing tale of survival ... A page-turner that will have readers watching where they step and looking up into trees, long after the slithering and snorting end." • School Library Journal "A fast-paced adventure traces 13-year-old Cort's daring attempt to keep two

neighbor girls alive during a hurricane ... Key brings to life the eerie quality of the Alabama swampland and the hidden dangers that lurk around every corner. Short, cliffhanger chapters will keep even the most reluctant readers engrossed. • Publishers Weekly

Watt Key lives in southern Alabama with his family, near the swamp where this story takes place. His debut novel, *Alabama Moon*, was named to Time Magazine's list of the Best Hundred YA Books of All Time. *Terror at Bottle Creek* is his fourth book.

My son hated this book. I read (scanned) it and I found it to be interesting enough. The problem is that this book is aimed at an audience of new teenagers (13+) and I think it is too cerebral and full of adult nuances to appeal a 13year old. My son did enjoy the drama where terror is in the form of a wild boar.

Nice book. This was on the sunshine state reading list and I was forced to read it but its worth my time.

Thirteen-year-old Cort, his friend Liza and her younger sister Francie are all alone when the hurricane comes. There are no adults for help or guidance when Francie disappears with Catfish, Cort's dog. The dog has returned to Cort's houseboat with Francie; the houseboat is free in the hurricane with the four of them on board. They head to the Mounds, old Indian grounds that are now a refuge for tons of poisonous snakes, wild hogs, other animals and a bear. The adventure is slow in building but really builds! Very satisfying with a great cast of characters.

Watt Key has written a nail-biting survival story with *Terror at Bottle Creek*. I flew through the book in a day because I had to know what happened to Cort, Liza, and Francie. Cort lives with his father along a creek in southern Alabama and a hurricane is on the way. As Cort and his father prepare for the storm, Cort wants his father to stop visiting his mother who left them some months before. He also thinks about Liza and asking her to an upcoming dance. But once the storm hits and Cort and the girls end up alone, survival takes priority. When Francie gets dragged out into the storm by Cort's dog and ends up stranded on Cort's family's houseboat, he can't leave her there, so he and Liza take his father's boat and go after her. They end up stranded in the bayou with no shelter and rising floodwaters as well as rain and wind. As they head for higher ground, Cort worries about how he can keep himself and the girls alive, especially once it becomes evident that many animals are

heading to the same high ground. Key does a fabulous job creating a powerful story of courage and determination as well as friendship and family. I thoroughly enjoyed this as a story of survival as well as growing up and carrying on in the face of seemingly impossible odds. This is a great book to give to children who enjoyed Hatchet by Gary Paulsen.

This book review is for the novel *Terror at Bottle Creek* by Watt Key. It was published January 5th, 2016, and has 213 pages. The setting of this story is a swamp town preparing for the worst when they find that Hurricane Igor is heading their way. Cort, a 13 year old boy, lives with his father and helps him run a river guide business. Their customers consist of tourists, and sometimes hunters who look for fresh land to hunt for alligators on. The main problem that Cort and his father have to deal with throughout the story, is the walking out of his mother. Cort's father is so distraught by this, that he directs his time mostly to getting his wife back rather than focusing on the river guide business. Cort has to try his best to get his dad to accept the loss rather than trying to fix the unfixable. Worse comes to worse when Cort's father finds himself in too much denial and continues to chase after his wife, and Cort suddenly finds himself responsible for the safety of two neighbor girls while they do everything in their ability to bear the storm. The girls, Liza, who is Cort's age, and Francie who is six, rely on Cort for protection since Liza suffers from a cottonmouth rattlesnake bite, and Francie is too young to fend for herself. Through all of these large cons that play a large role in the kid's safety, the storm is only yet to come. I thought that this book had a very good storyline to it, but it was written so oddly that it was hard to follow along at parts. Watt Key would type a simple sentence and then period. Sentence, then period. Sentence, then period. It's especially a problem for me, since I have the same problem, and I'm trying my best to avoid doing it as much as possible. But reading a book written with the same method kinda draws me back into that rut. My favorite part would definitely have to be towards the beginning when there's the introduction to the problem of Cort's mother being out, but the ferry business is still up and going. Reading about when things are slightly ok makes you feel comforted, and think that things will work out towards the end of the book. If I could change anything about the book, it would have to be the writing style. If the sentence fragments were maybe combined with commas at some points, it would be a lot easier for me to read. I'd recommend this book to anyone who likes a very straightforward story line plot with a not-so-complex line of characters in the story. Every now and then an insignificant person would come up like a ferry customer, but the story is mostly based around Cort, his father, and the neighbor girls. I'd rate this book with 3 out of 5. It is really fun to read, There just needs to

be a few touch ups on the simple sentences!

Amazing plot and it was very enjoyable.

[illegible]

Its OK

Watt Key writes about what he knows and he embellishes beautifully. I have I lived in this area all of my life and can relate.

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