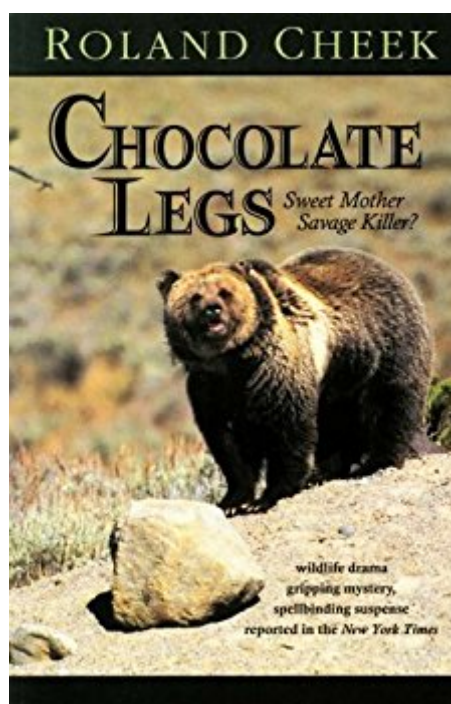


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# Chocolate Legs



## Synopsis

Chocolate Legs Sweet MotherâSavage Killer? Her story begins as an Ursid Shirley Temple, a cute blond phenom amid the real-life Shangri-la of Glacier National ParkâTM's most scenic mountain valley. In time, however, the curtsying knockout zoomed to National Velvet-style celebrity, demanding more from fans than admiring glances and the flashing bulbs of paparazzi cameras. It was those Garbo-sized demands and an ever-growing haughtiness that attracted officialdomâTM's attention. Exile followed. Life turned hard for the young bear in the peopleless mountains where a helicopter deposited her. And for her first year along this most isolated region of the Crown of the Continent, Chocolate Legs barely walked the knife-edge of survival. But if nothing else, the young bear proved she was a survivor. She learned when to hold âTMem and when to fold âTMemâ running without shame from bigger, older, meaner bears and avoiding the occasional humans wandering into her domain. Gradually she expanded her home range, always learning to access new foods in new terrain. She learned to swill fermenting grain along railroad derailments and to feast on cutworm moths on select mountaintops. And eventually a decade and more passed and the blond bombshell found herself once more amid the haunts humans frequent. By then, she was a mother several times over, with needs more than her own. By then sheâTMd come to a fork in her lifeâTM's trail. By then she reverted to old ways in new places, recalling her haughtiness at the same time as she recalled herself from exile. It was then that her tale morphed into one that captured the imagination of reporters from as far away as the eastern seaboard and carried by international media around the globe. It was then that the New York Times headlined their story: âœThe Tale of Three Bad News Bears Who Became Killers.â • And it was then, after Chocolate Legs had been painted with a âœMa Barkerâ • sobriquet, that the blond knockout with chocolate-colored legs most needed her own Johnny Cochrane in defense. Chocolate Legs is an investigative journey into the life and death of one of the worldâTM's most fascinating creatures by a long-time journalist who has lived (and sometimes brushed near death) with great bears. But itâTM's a story going far beyond the life of one bear in one National Park. ItâTM's a story of humans who care about our landâTM's wild animals, about officials charged with the care of that land and those animals; a story of the extraordinary efforts they sometimes expend to ensure all wild creatures a safe and natural existence while still affording opportunity for the general public they ultimately serve. Chocolate Legs serves as an excellent example of efforts expended for one bear, both in rehabilitation and monitoring, not to mention the terrific forbearance those biologists and managers demonstrated as an investigation into the tragic death of a lone hiker wound its tedious way to a final, scientifically documented conclusion. Only a few years before, Chocolate Legs and her

offspring wouldâ™ve been summarily executed based on mere suspicion. In fact, fifty years ago, when I first came to Glacier Park and the Montana around it, a young bear wandering through Many Glacier Campground at age two mightâ™ve faced execution just for being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Today itâ™s different. I applaud that difference.- Roland Cheek

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Roland Cheek writes delightful and true bear stories! In fact, with his permission my daughter Terri and I co-wrote a song about one of his very fun stories, "he Dairy Queen Bear". I recommend all of Roland Cheek's bear books. Patricia Harris

I understand that you can not watch a bear 24 hours. A lot of the details became mundane. I believe the ending was appropriate for the situation that evolved. I had to have one captured for trying to eat my grain. Unfortunately kept getting into chicken layena. He did not eat it, kept carrying the tote into the woods. I believe something was wrong with his nose. Next to the layenawas 80 pounds of sweet molasses grain., untouched . Came across a bear once while hiking a mountain in Idaho, It was scared and ran up the mountain side. It was a WOW moment.

Roland Cheek is remarkable with his encyclopedic knowledge of the flora and fauna in and around Glacier Park and then weaving it all into a tapestry of the lives of grizzlies in the wild, and chocolate legs in particular. An entertaining and informative read.

Gets you drawn in to the bear and makes you want to keep reading hoping for the best but knowing from the beginning what is to come.

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