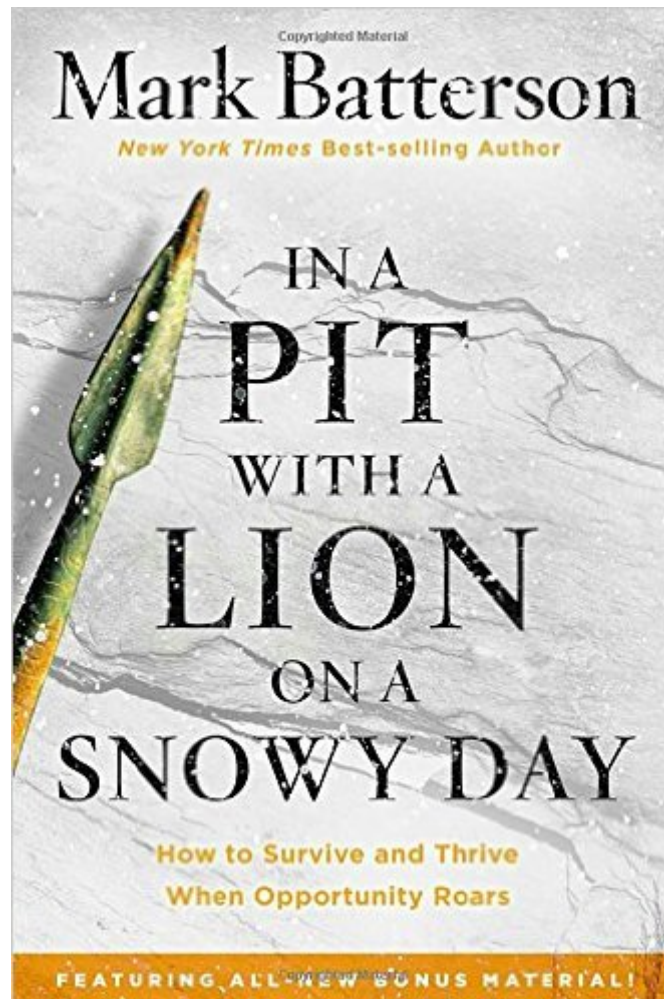


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In A Pit With A Lion On A Snowy Day: How To Survive And Thrive When Opportunity Roars



Synopsis

What if the life you really want and the future God wants for you are hiding right now in your biggest problem, your worst failure, your greatest fear? In *A Pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day*, Mark Batterson brings imagination, energy, and insight. I appreciate his willingness to take bold risks and go to extraordinary lengths to reach our culture with a message that is truly relevant.

—CRAIG GROESCHEL, pastor of Life Church, author of *Chazown* and *Dare to Drop the Pose*

As a leader and teacher, Mark Batterson brings imagination, energy, and insight. I appreciate his willingness to take bold risks and go to extraordinary lengths to reach our culture with a message that is truly relevant.

—ED YOUNG, senior pastor, Fellowship Church

Don't settle for a normal life. Conquer your fears, accept His anointing, jump into that pit, chase the lion, and watch God's Kingdom come in amazing ways.

—CHRISTINE CAINE, founder of Propel Women, author of *Unashamed*

Your greatest regret at the end of your life will be the lions you didn't chase. You will look back longingly on risks not taken, opportunities not seized, and dreams not pursued. Stop running away from what scares you most and start chasing the God-ordained opportunities that cross your path. *In a Pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day* is inspired by one of the most obscure yet courageous acts recorded in Scripture, a blessed and audacious act that left no regrets: Benaiah chased a lion down into a pit. Then, despite the snow and slippery ground, he caught the lion and killed it. (2 Samuel 23:20-21). Unleash the lion chaser within!

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Customer Reviews

Chase the lion! That is the recurring theme that stalks and roars at readers as they consume the meat of Mark Batterson's new book "In a Pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day." Alright, enough with the lion jokes. Based on an obscure passage in the Old Testament book of 2 Samuel (23:29,30) Mark Batterson challenges his readers to face the lions in their lives head on with courage and faith. He centers his book on the story of an Israelite warrior who encounters a lion in a pit on a snowy day. The twist is that rather than running away from the lion as most people would be prone to do, this courageous soldier jumps into the pit and kills it. It is a bold move, a fearless and counter-intuitive act. And it is an act that perfectly illustrates the kind of life Batterson believes should be the norm for people who follow Jesus Christ. People whom Mark labels: lion chasers. The majority of the book is built on the seven skills that Batterson believes will help people "climb out of the slipperiest pits and chase the biggest lions." These skills are: overcoming adversity, unlearning fears, embracing uncertainty, calculating risks, seizing opportunities, defying odds, and looking foolish. Each of the chapters in the book highlights one of the seven skills and describes how it applies to a life of lion chasing. The chapters are easy to read and the main points in each one are clear and well illustrated. Using an effective blend of intellect, humor, candor and Scripture he artfully makes his case for the necessity and development of each skill. Coupled with a writing style that is both easily understandable and doable, Batterson provides his readers with needed insights on how to develop the 7 habits of highly effective lion chasing.

In a Pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day I wanted to like this book. And, to be honest, I do like this book. On the whole, it is a book written to challenge you to overcome your fears and live a bold life. As a self-help, motivational book, Mark Batterson has produced a good one. Except that he does not claim to have just generated a self-help book. In fact, he puts forth his book as based in Scripture. He takes the title from the story of Benaiah in 2 Samuel 23:20-23. Benaiah was the captain of the bodyguard of King David of Israel. This passage is the introduction to Benaiah, who is also instrumental in establishing King Solomon's reign and whose father was Jehoiada the chief priest (1 Chronicles 27:5). In the 2 Samuel passage, Benaiah's feat of killing a lion in a pit on a snowy day is recorded. Batterson cites the New Living Translation that renders Benaiah's action as "chasing" the lion into the pit. That's the only major translation I can find that uses "chase." The rest use "went down." Which is probably more faithful to the original Hebrew. That, though, poses difficulties for Batterson's entire hypothesis. His view in this book is that good, courageous Christian people chase lions, pursue the danger and overcome it. If Benaiah only "went down," then it's a totally different lesson. That lesson is this: do the job in front of you as best you can, no matter how terrifying. Here

is my problem: Batterson has taken a good idea and then searched Scripture for a story he considers obscure, picks the translation that supports his hypothesis, and then presents the book as normative for the Christian life. He fills the book with stories of people going out of their comfort zones and how the experiences are priceless for them.

In this book, Pastor Mark Batterson takes a rather obscure and short story and develops an entire theology of risk taking. Benaiah struck down a lion in a pit on a snowy day. From there he writes 170 pages about why we should take risks too. His argument isn't all bad...risk taking for Jesus is good. But we know very little about this particular story about Benaiah. Batterson takes very good helping of artistic license to imagine what must have been the case, the motives, etc. Interspersed he gives a few real life examples of people who took some big risks or did something they were fearful of. Fair enough, but this doesn't mean all of us should leave our jobs for something totally different or less secure. And there are certainly people who thought they were following the will of God and indeed they weren't. The pressing need for Christians today in the States is not to be more risky, be a "lion chaser" but to simply walk in step with the Spirit, living a life of love, joy and peace. Imagine what would happen in our homes, schools, and neighborhoods if Christians started focusing on the simplicity of living for Jesus. No need to leave jobs, go to far away lands and so on. We can deny ourselves in our own homes, jobs, and communities. Batterson uses very little Scripture in the book to make his arguments. The reader will often find "I think God...", or "Perhaps..." , or plain declarations about God that are just plain questionable. "I believe that somewhere deep down inside all of us there is a primal longing to do something crazy for God. We want to chase a lion like Benaiah." There's an assumed implication here that one needs to do something outrageous, major, or significant.

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