



Avalanche!

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*. Twelve-year-old twins Ashley and Ryan are skiing with their parents in Wyoming's Grand Teton Mountains where there is a ground-shaking rumble. Unstable snow rushes downhill and buries them in icy white. It will take all of their knowledge and grit 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 page-turner with illustrations includes survival tips from the National Avalanche Center and U.S. Forest Service. You could have a better chance of surviving a real-life avalanche after reading this book!

Stay calm. Stay smart. Survive.

Avalanche! Details

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Author : Terry Lynn Johnson , Jani Orban (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Avalanche! for online ebook

Barbara White says

Avalanche! is a truly realistic story. I couldn't put it down. I took Avalanche! to my middle school classroom, did a book talk for my struggling readers, and watched the book fly off it's shelf day after day. That is the best review possible. I'll be purchasing the remaining books in the series. Thanks, Terry Lynn Johnson, and Goodreads First Reads for a copy of Avalanche!

Wendy says

“Avalanche!” a ground-shaking, exciting adventure in the “Survivor Diaries” which I won through Goodreads Giveaways opens with twelve-year-old twins Ashley and Ryan skiing towards Colt Summit in Wyoming’s Grant Teton Mountains. Leaving their parents behind at a shelter in their desire to see a wolverine in the wild they take a fork in the trail ending up skiing onto the lip of “a dangerously loaded snowfield”. What they don’t expect is to hear a crack and feel the snow shift beneath them. Fighting to survive after being injured and buried in the snow only knowledge from their avalanche lessons and perseverance will enable them to overcome the obstacles in their road to safety.

The story heats up as Ashley fights not only to free herself from the snow encasing her but to help her brother escape what could have become his icy tomb. Intensity and suspense quickly ratchet higher with Ryan’s disorientation; their need for warmth, shelter and food; as well as their confrontation with a bear.

Well-written with wonderful illustrations and helpful survival tips at the end, the adventure centers mainly around Ashley as she puts her survival skills to work, and in her resourcefulness, finds a way to escape their dilemma to find help. Inspired by true events the author breathes realism and high-energy into this short but electrifying adventure.

Skilfully Terry Lynn Johnson creates in Ashley Hilder a brave, tenacious and inventive heroine who puts her survival knowledge to work to save their lives. A fighter when provoked at school rather than compliant like her brother Ryan, she focuses that determination and stubbornness as well as her innate cleverness to come up with a way to not only cross the snow but carry her brother to safety. Only when faced with a clash between a grizzly and wolverine does fear overwhelm the twins and they clutch each other, wondering if this will be their end.

“Avalanche!” is a short, gripping adventure with real life lessons in survival that will entrance middle-school and older readers. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and intend to add it to the collection in my library.

Lorie Barber says

Quick-paced, engaging story of twins who are caught in an avalanche. The determination and resilience of Ashley is the heart of the story, and the lessons she learns as she fights for her and her brothers survival are great ones for middle-graders to be reading about. The author’s notes and survival tips at the end were an interesting feature. Looking forward to more in this series!

Terry Johnson says

My book!

This is my first book to get a STARRED REVIEW! From Kirkus!

Ms. Yingling says

E ARC from Edelweiss Above the Treeline

Ashley and her twin brother Ryan are skiing with their parents in the Grand Tetons mountains. They are both very interested in catching a glimpse of a wolverine, so ski off trail in order to look for one. Unfortunately, they get caught in an avalanche! Luckily, both survive and are able to find each other. Ryan has hit his head and disoriented, but Ashley has her well stocked back pack, and the two build a snow shelter and hunker down for the night. The next day, Ryan can remember more, but his feet have gotten frostbitten. Undaunted, Ashley makes a skid and sets off to drag him to where she knows a trail is so that they can get help. During their adventures, they see a bear and a wolverine. Thanks to their knowledge and preparation, an ill-advised outing does not turn into tragedy.

Strengths: Johnson's outdoor details are without parallel, and her writing is crisp and compact, making this a great choice for struggling readers who still want a quality story. Ashley is well prepared, thinks through things before acting (with the exception of the first time going off trail), and has a lot of "grit". I can't wait to see more of these; Lost comes out 3 July 2018.

Weaknesses: Ryan is not very well developed, but he does have a head injury. In the first book, I was somehow annoyed by the premise of the main character being interviewed about the experience, but it worked much better in this book.

What I Really Think: Chances are not good that I will EVER go skiing, but if I did, I would definitely want to go with Ms. Johnson! I love all the details about how to survive things like being washed Overboard! This reminded me a bit of my mother's preparations for driving twenty minutes through the country to work in the 1970s. She had salt, blankets, a candle in a flower pot, and all sorts of other things to survive if her car went off the road in the snow between Boardman and East Palestine Ohio. She even had a CB radio!

Jo Sorrell says

As a teacher/librarian I know first hand that young readers, boys and girls, love to read disaster and survival stories. Interest is increased when the main characters are young, as in Avalanche.

This book was just the right length for young and sometimes reluctant readers; about a hundred pages. The story features twins, a boy and girl, who although well trained in avalanche situations, find themselves actually buried beneath the snow. The excitement is enhanced by wildlife skiers might encounter when stepping into their world.

After the story, the author lists intriguing tips on how to survive an avalanche and a bear attack.

My only complaint would be the illustrations. I felt the black ink drawings looked dated, but I'm speaking from the point of view of an adult reader not a student.

This was a well written and thrilling read.

Book Him Danno says

Review from my 11 year old son.

Its a good book. I mean its a little easy for me to read but I really liked. It taught me alot about Avalanches and how destructive they can be. The characters are pretty awesome and I finished it in a night. The pictures were awesome and I learned a lot about survival.

Review from 8 year old daugher

This book was awesome mom! I learned all about Avalnches and it talked about how cold it gets and how you can freeze. Did you know if you fall asleep cold you can die in your sleep!

The book told me how to survive but I think I could die from the cold. The book was awesome and I was able to read it in a night. Fun, fast read.

Thank you to Netgalley and the publishers HMH Books for Young Readers for the advance copy.

Lynn says

Excellent adventure and suspense story for 3-5 graders. Two siblings skiing in the Grand Tetons are caught in an avalanche and buried under the snow. The kids must use their prior training and equipment to survive. Was surprised at how concise yet well written it was.

Ruth Ann says

Well-written chapter book about a family vacation to Wyoming for skiing. The twins are strong skiers and are determined to find a wolverine off-trail. They have some avalanche training and this helps sister Ashley as an avalanche overtakes them one afternoon. Ryan is buried in deeper snow and Ash is able to dig him out. The twins have to shelter on the mountain before starting out toward civilization. They encounter wild animals and attend to their injuries. Ashley finds she has strength and grit.

Jaden says

I love the Survivor Diaries they are a great thing to read to learn about survival in the outdoors. Terry Lynn Johnson is a really good author that I love I can't wait to read the next one in the series.

Brenda says

Originally posted at Log Cabin Library

Survivor Diaries is similar to the I Survived series, with the variant being real kids surviving in harsh wilderness conditions, the next one is called Overboard! For twins Ashley and Ryan it's surviving an avalanche. The story begins as Ashley is being interviewed by a reporter for a new series on brave kids, she recounts the events that lead up to the avalanche. The series is a sort of what to do if you land yourself in this situation and how to survive. Ashley struggles to try and be as good as her brother at school or to at least live up to her dad's and her own expectations to be a faster skier like her brother Ryan. Ryan's the adventurous type, the one who hears about a study being done with the Wolverines in the area and then wants to go off the trail chasing after them. Terry Lynn Johnson wastes no time getting the action started, detailing Ashley getting caught in the snow pouring down from the mountain, tumbling, unable to grab onto anything to prevent herself from being pulled down further. And then Ashley's training kicks in and she remembers the importance of not panicking. Once she's free, Ashley races to uncover Ryan from the snow he's buried under, with the only thing visible being his stick peering out of the snow. Bruised and with an injured knee, cold and damp they struggle to find a way to get warm. Then the realization hits that Ryan can't remember who she is. Ashley is usually the follower, in her brother's shadow, but now after his injury, she needs to take the lead. She's resourceful using the elastic of her underwear as a bandage for her knee and knowledgeable from her training. She's the one who gets them started in digging a snow cave, keeps Ryan alert by reminding him of things they've done together in the past, while hoping his memory will come back. There are many obstacles for them to overcome, not to mention a bear in the area, but Ashley perseveres to get them to safety. I especially liked the link that was made between Ashley watching a wolverine taking on a bear and using it as a catalyst for her own grit and determination to get up the side of the mountain while pulling her brother behind her. Avalanche! is packed full of practical tips on being out in the elements. It's educational while being highly interesting and with its full-page black and white illustrations depicting the action and survival tips from the National Avalanche Center at the back of the book, it certainly makes for a wonderful survival story.

Review of EARC from Edelweiss Above the Treeline

Debbie says

"Avalanche!" is an adventure story for children ages 7-10. The story follows the 12-year-old heroine and her twin brother on a day when they're caught in an avalanche when out skiing by themselves. The author included real information about how to avoid or survive an avalanche, working it into the story as things the heroine remembers from a survival course they took. The heroine shows great courage while getting her injured brother to help even though she's injured and they face scary situations. I'd recommend this interesting, quick read.

I received an Advanced Reader Copy of this book from the publisher through Amazon Vine.

Kathie says

Thank you to NetGalley for an E ARC of this book. All opinions are my own.

The latest in the Survivor Diaries series, Avalanche! will appeal to young readers not yet ready for longer adventure chapter books, such as the I Survived series. The length is appropriate for early or developing

readers, and the pace is fast and steady. Although it's fiction, the survival skills and facts presented throughout the book definitely read like nonfiction, and it might be a great recommendation for a reader who typically doesn't like fiction. I enjoy all of Terry Lynn Johnson's books because I feel like I learn so much from them, while enjoying an engaging story.

I will be purchasing this series for my library.

Amber Webb says

This was my first Survivor Diaries read and I loved it! I can't wait to share this series with students. I think that children will love the fast pace, constant action and characters in Avalanche! The relationship between brother and sister as well as their relationships with their parents made for a stand out story line between action moments. I loved the fast pace and easy to read chapters, but my favorite was perhaps the end pages and additional non-fiction pieces that were added in the back of the book. This book, and I imagine many of the other Survivor Diary books, would be great for reading along with curriculum concepts. I appreciate Johnson's willingness to thoroughly research and share that research with her readers. I can't wait to read more of this series!

Patricia Tilton says

A smart and riveting adventure about surviving in extreme elements following an avalanche. This is a must read for those who enjoy downhill skiing and snowboarding! Every minute counts when you find yourself in a dangerous situation. Avalanche! is the second book in Johnson's Survival Diaries series. The plot is realistic with many nail-biting moments. Pen and ink drawings add to the drama as it unfolds.

Twelve-year-old twins Ashley and Ryan and their parents are skiing the snowy Grand Teton range in Wyoming. Their backpacks are filled with usual ski gear, extra food, and survival items. Ryan and Ashley take a detour from their parents and the designated path to follow some wolverine tracks. Suddenly they find themselves in the midst of a dangerously loaded snowfield that breaks away and crashes around them. Even though their avalanche lessons kick in, they have little time to try to turn a different direction before they are tumbling in the snow and debris that is sweeping them down the mountain. They are hurt and buried in snow.

Ashley is the first to dig herself free from her snow grave. But where is Ryan? Will Ashley and Ryan be able to use survival skills they have learned to race the clock and survive a massive avalanche until help arrives? What do they do first? How serious are their injuries? How much time do they have before hypothermia sets in? Can they build a fire?

The Avalanche! Survivor Diaries 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. Johnson's words of real-life advice echo loud and clear: Stay calm. Stay Smart. Survive. It is an important story for skiing families to read together. Excellent book that belongs in every school library.
