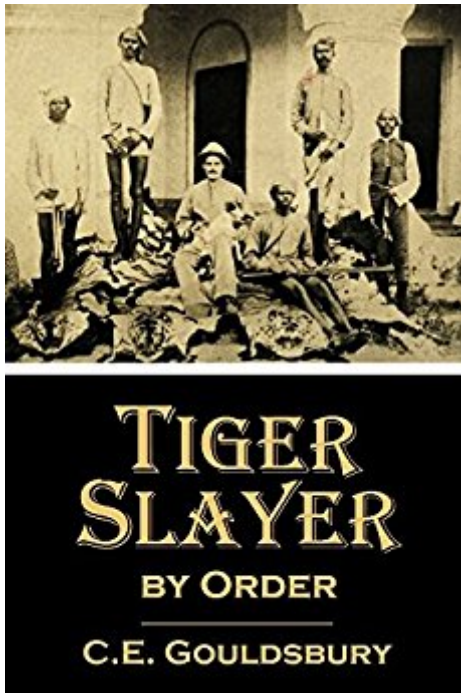


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Tiger Slayer By Order (1901) (Linked Table Of Contents)



Synopsis

In this book the author Charles Gouldsbury writes of his friend's life story as a big game hunter in India beginning in 1870. Gouldsbury writes about his friend: "THIS work, to which I have given the title of " Tiger Slayer by Order," as being obviously the most suitable, has been compiled entirely from notes and stories, furnished by Mr. Digby Davies, late a Deputy-Inspector-General of the Indian Police, and contains his own experiences as a Police Officer, and Bhil Agent—coupled with the unique office of Tiger Slayer to the Government of Bombay." Mr. Digby Davies served for over thirty years in that Presidency, and during this long period had many and exceptional opportunities of indulging his great taste for sport, especially when carrying out his duties as "Tiger Slayer." I have, at his request, endeavoured, with the aid of his notes, to construct a tale—or rather, autobiographical narration of his adventures and experiences, and in order to do this have necessarily been obliged to make use of the first person throughout." Mr. Digby Davies in performing his duties has shot to his own rifle over 260 tigers and has assisted at the destruction of many others. "In the later sixties, when man-eaters were quite common in, and in districts adjacent to, Seonee. On practically the whole length of this road, but particularly at a long pass or crossing of three miles, called the Korai Ghat, a party of what I may call professional man-eating tigers, had taken up their quarters, who, lying in wait in small hillocks above the road, would pounce suddenly on drivers of bullock carts and carry them off into the jungle below." During the three years that Colonel W was stationed at Sconce, this Ghat was often held up for so long as three months at a time by these man-eaters, one of whom was credited with having killed and eaten seven hundred human victims before he was eventually destroyed." The book describes a tiger attack of which Digsby barely escaped with his life: "I was once encamped at Pansunba—also in the Barwanee territory—when my men who had been out as usual looking for tracks, reported the presence of a tigress. Knowing the danger they ran in beating up a tigress, I cautioned the beaters to keep well together and distributed amongst them some spare guns which I had loaded with buck shot." I had scarcely taken up my position when I heard loud shouts, followed by a succession of savage roarings from the tigress. Guided by the men on trees, we cautiously approached the spot where she was last seen and were carefully examining the ground, when we were startled by a deafening roar, instantly followed by the tigress who came charging down the bank, and at such speed that her belly almost touched the ground." Stepping forward, clear of some bushes, I had barely time to aim . . . the next moment I was on my back with the tigress standing over me growling savagely."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Superb book, prompt seller.

I really like the true old hunting stories of 19th century India! Author Gouldsbury seems to be the 'real deal', too.. I have researched him along with numerous other English authors of the period in question (1855-1900) and he and both his Indian service and hunting background check out completely. He writes of tiger-hunting-during a period when tigers were very numerous, as well as when the indigenous hill tribes throughout much of India, were often regular items on the menu of some of the tigers (and leopards) which became dedicated ..or 'occasional' man-eaters, and 'control' efforts of those big cat populations was regularly needed and sought often from an appointed "tiger slayer". The author paints a very good picture of the period, the local customs and interactions, hunting methodologies, as well as descriptions of some of the famous, old black-powder cartridge-guns that were used for a variety of hunting, including tiger. It's a short, easy, and very enjoyable read that compares well with other such books which also share a unique and detailed insight into a period of less well-known history that is shared by both India and England

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