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Mission Survival: Rage of the Rhino by Bear Grylls

Publisher: Random House Childrens

RRP \$16.99

The seventh book in the Mission Survival series is a high-octane adventure packed with danger and drama.

Beck Granger, the hero of the series, is a fourteen-year-old who has been involved in many hazardous situations and become skilled in the art of survival. For some time, Beck has tried to find out the truth about how his parents were mysteriously killed. It seems likely their humanitarian and wildlife protection work conflicted with the money-making schemes of Lumos, a business involved in shady deals in resource-rich countries.

With his Uncle Al, Beck has been asked to go to Kruger National Park in South Africa to help with a project to prevent the poaching of rhinoceros that are on the brink of extinction. It soon becomes clear the rhinos are not the only creatures in danger. Beck and his African friend, Samora, are kidnapped by poachers. At the same time, Lumos is hunting Beck and they seem determined to kill him.

The well-written novel is an action-packed escapade where the two young people are on the run from their pursuers. They keep one step ahead by sharing Samora's local knowledge of wildlife and Beck's survival skills. It's an exhilarating tale peppered with realistic challenges and gruesome scenarios.

Rage of the Rhino has considerable depth. The storyline also reveals the deprived lives of people living in the shanty town of Soweto and the determination of big business to make money without thought for the damage their exploits do to people and the environment.

Upper-primary school students will be entertained and informed by this enthralling tale by real-life survival expert Bear Grylls.

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett

Author's website:

<http://www.beargrylls.com/>

Mission Survival series website:

www.missionsurvival.co.uk

