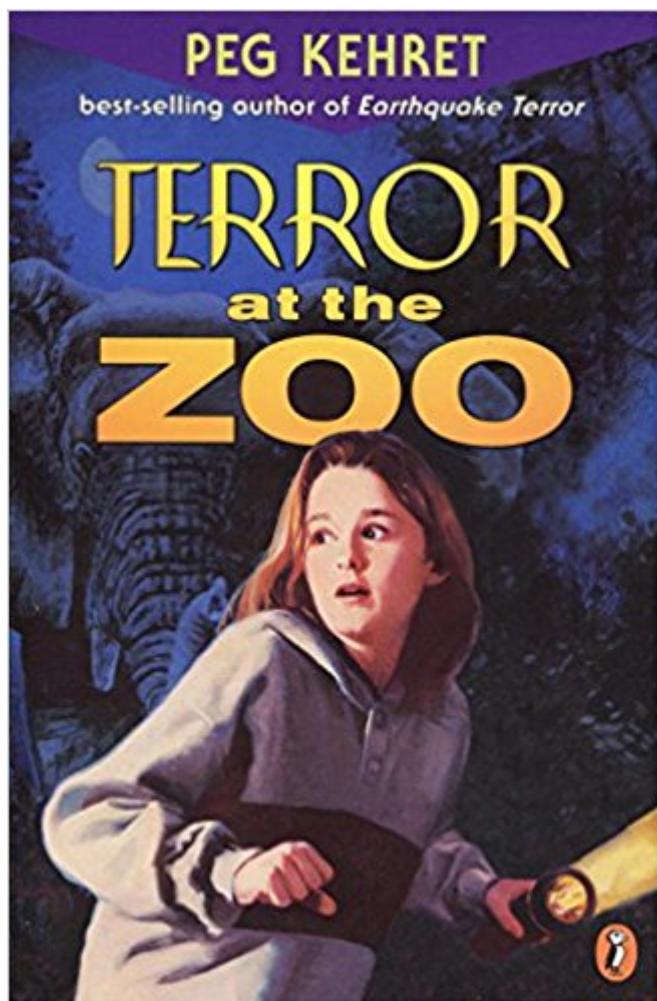


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## Terror At The Zoo



## Synopsis

Ellen Streater received the perfect birthday present—*an overnight camp-out at the zoo*. Too bad she had to invite her little brother Corey along. But as night falls in the zoo, her brother becomes the least of her worries, as they discover they're locked in the zoo with an escaped convict who's stalking their every move. Unable to run, and with no help in sight, their last chance for survival is Ellen's crazy science project on animal communication. But can they get the animals to help them in time, or will it be too late? "A compelling and fast-paced mystery with characters that are believable and well drawn." •*The Horn Book* "Plausible incidents and believable characters combine in a fast-moving and well-constructed tale." •*Booklist*

## Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.4 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #273,052 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #41 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Dysfunctional Relationships #97 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Abuse #176 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Zoos

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 4-7-- An overnight camp out at the zoo turns into a nightmare for Ellen and her little brother Corey when an escaped prisoner also takes refuge there. Through a series of mostly implausible coincidences, they find themselves locked in the zoo grounds with a dangerous and desperate man who plans to hold them for ransom. Each of the several adults responsible for the children thinks someone else is with them, so no one comes to their rescue. Several pursuit scenes through the ominous dark lead the siblings to the Elephant Forest, where Ellen communicates telepathically with the elephants, spurring her favorite one to attack the man. The last minute arrival of the children's

parents and a security guard prevents any blood from being shed. This highly improbable adventure is not up to Kehret's usual standards, but it will appeal to animal lovers looking for a spooky story. There is plenty of suspense, as the children are never sure around which dark corner the criminal lurks. A baby monkey and, of course, the heroic elephants add color to the story. Lightweight but entertaining fare. --Bruce Anne Shook, Mendenhall Middle School, Greensboro, Copyright 1992

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Ellen and Corey have the chance to camp overnight at the Seattle zoo; but what was planned as a special birthday present nearly proves to be the death of them when they come up against an escaped convict who thinks of the zoo as a safe hideout. When their parents' flight is delayed, Ellen (12) and Corey (8) are afraid they'll have to miss the anticipated campout, but they're able to convince the zoo administrator that their parents have just pulled into the parking lot. Anxious to leave (her daughter is giving birth), she lets them stay after-hours, with the result that the children are left unchaperoned overnight. Meanwhile, convict Tony Haymes plans to kidnap a rare baby monkey and use the ransom to flee to Mexico. As the kids are separated at various points--each trying to elude Haymes, find the other, and rescue the monkey--their experience becomes more and more frightening. When they are finally rescued, it's due in part to Ellen's ability to communicate nonverbally with the elephants. For readers who can swallow the supposition that Ellen can command a bull elephant telepathically, the book works pretty well as a suspense novel. Kehret's attention to detail is less than perfect (How does Ellen know that the trail of peanut shells she follows was left by her brother?), but she arranges the children's isolation at the zoo realistically enough, and the plot is scary. Acceptable additional fare. (Fiction. 10-12) -- Copyright ©1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

great book

My fourth grade daughter said this was her favorite of Peg Keherets books. And she has read almost all of them.

What if you were locked in a zoo without your parents? Sound cool? Now what if you were locked in a zoo with an escaped criminal with a knife and no adults around to help? That's what Ellen and her little brother Cory have to deal with in *Terror at the Zoo* by author Peg Kehret. A prize of an

overnight sleep-over for four is auctioned off and Ellen and Cory's grandparents find it a fine idea as a gift for their granddaughter's birthday. But when Ellen and Corey's mom and dad's flight home gets delayed, and their grandmother is in the hospital because of an illness, there is no one to take care of the kids. Still, they decide they are not going to miss out on a great adventure and decide to go to the zoo sleep-over by themselves. Meanwhile, an escaped fugitive looking for money goes to the zoo to kidnap a baby monkey and hold it for ransom. When Ellen and Cory find the escaped criminal in the middle of the night, the chaos really starts. The children look for the zoo security guard, but he is no where to be found. To make things even worse, the only phone available is outside the locked zoo. With no way to reach a phone or find help, can Cory and Ellen escape from this hostile criminal, or are they, like the zoo animals themselves, trapped inside a fenced, barb-wired prison? Will Ellen's science project of communicating with animals telepathically help her while she's locked in the zoo? Will Ellen and Corey be able to hide from the escaped criminal? Will their parents arrive in time to rescue them? This really is a night of terror at the zoo! This book keeps you on the edge of your seat the entire time just waiting to find out what will happen next. If you like suspense, action, and fiction, I would highly recommend this book! I really enjoyed it and I hope you will too.

The book is called *Terror at the Zoo*. The author is Peg Kehret. The main characters are Ellen and her brother Cory. Ellen thinks that her up coming birthday will make her more mature, but all Corey can think about is another fantasy story to make up. The plot of the story is that Ellen and Corey got a gift certificate to spend the night at the local zoo. Their grandparents will be taking them, because their parents will be out of town. Days before they go, their grandma breaks her foot. Their parents say that they will fly in early so that they can take them. When that day does come, their parents aren't there. Ellen thinks that they will be there soon, so she writes a note and she and her brother take a cab to the zoo. They wait outside the gates for hours, but their parents aren't there. So they go to the area where their campsite is. They wait some more then decide to go exploring. After all, this is their first time at the zoo at night. They come across an escaped prisoner and he spots them too. Now, they are on the run for their lives. All the zoo gates are locked, so there's no way out. They encounter him many times. The zoo elephants end up being the ones that save their lives. The police come and the crook is arrested. The setting in this book is in the Seattle zoo in modern day time. The theme in this story is love and courage. Ellen and Corey have to set aside their differences in order to stay alive. They also have to be very courageous to stay alive. I thought this book was a great book because it kept you on your toes the whole time.

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