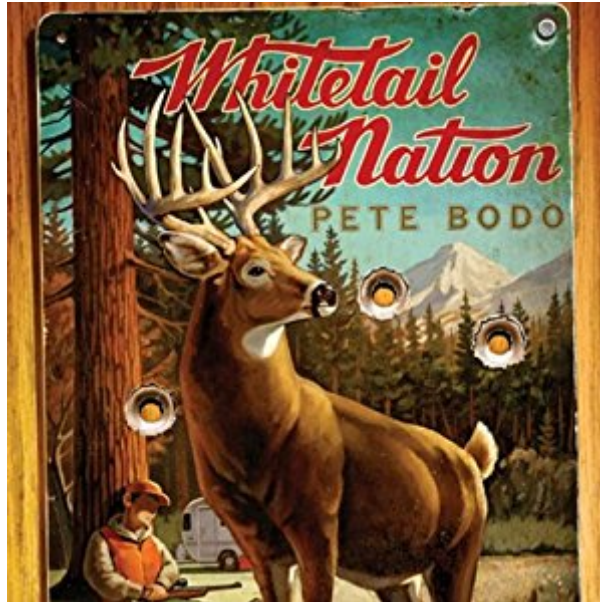


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# Whitetail Nation: My Season In Pursuit Of The Monster Buck



## Synopsis

Whitetail Nation is the uproarious story of the season Pete Bodo set out to kill the big buck. From the rolling hills of upstate New York to the vast and unforgiving land of the Big Sky to the Texas ranches that feature high fences, deer feeders, and money-back guarantees, Bodo traverses deep into the heart of a lively, growing subculture that draws powerfully on durable American values: the love of the frontier, the importance of self-reliance, the camaraderie of men in adventure, the quest for sustained youth, and, yes, the capitalist's right to amass every high-tech hunting gadget this industry's exploding commerce has to offer. Gradually, Bodo closes in on his target - that elusive monster buck - and with each day spent perched in a deer stand or crawling stealthily in high grass (praying the rattlesnakes are gone) or shivering through the night in a drafty cabin (flannel, polar fleece, and whiskey be damned), listeners are treated to a hilarious and unforgettable tour through a landscape that ranges from the exalted to the absurd. Along the way Bodo deftly captures the spirit and passion of this rich American pursuit, tracing its history back to the days of Lewis and Clark and examining that age-old question: Why do men hunt?"

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When my parents named me, they had the Paul Anka song in mind, but they underestimated my eventual interest in etymology and my fascination with my own moniker. As Diana is the Roman goddess of the hunt, I became fascinated with the idea of hunting and the outdoors. However, I never lived in a place that was conducive to pursuing this outside of the realm of the library until I

became a resident of Louisiana, the "sportsman's paradise." After living here for over twenty years, I discovered a group of people who actually hunted (or attempted to hunt) on a variety of properties--some of which belonged to friends, some of which was public hunting land and more importantly (and ironically, the most trophy/meat producing) private and extremely costly lodges. With a borrowed rifle, I tagged along and learned, the hard way, the definition of patience while soaking up the beauty of the woods. When I saw Pete Bodo's book "Whitetail Nation: My Season in Pursuit of the Monster Buck," I immediately thought of my journey into the forest primeval and wanted to relive it. Figuring that Bodo could and would explain more fluently the lure of observing and bagging one of the most beautiful animals on earth, I delved into this 250+-page book and was not disappointed. Of course, Bodo writes as a seasoned hunter with plenty of good hunting stories, which, by the way are second only in their preposterousness to the typical "fishing" yarn--meaning they can border on outright lies of which Pinocchio would be immensely proud.

I just finished reading this eminently entertaining book by Pete Bodo of Tennis writing fame. Pete is a larger than life New York City sports writer who thinks nothing of walking the upper West Side dressed in full hunting regalia. You would have a better chance of spotting an Ivory Billed Woodpecker, than to find a true hunting camo clad person on the sidewalks of posh, wealthy, & liberal upper Manhattan. I don't know Pete personally, but my good friend is his neighbor with children in the same school. My friend, Andrew, while a non-hunter, is continually fascinated by my stories of bow hunting in suburbia New York. He also tells me he often gets Pete to sit with known "Vegans" at school functions to enjoy the banter. So when Andrew handed me Pete's book, and explained their relationship, I dug right in. It is the story of a typical East coast deer hunter that has shot numerous deer, but never a GIANT buck. In the year 2008, he decides to change all that and dedicate his season to that goal. His stories of the ensuing 2 ½ months are at times hysterical, maniacal, and deeply insightful. The book seems to me to be written for the non-hunter, to try and help them "get it" about our passion. It also touched on so many aspects of hunting here in the East and especially how it has changed over the past 10 years. During the course of the season he hunts in New York, Montana, Texas, and Pennsylvania. His thoughts and observations are unique, deep and downright funny. He especially gives great thoughts on high fence hunting in Texas. The book opens years earlier, in Saskatchewan, where he has his first encounter with a buck of B&C caliber, the "Picket Fence". As he points out, any deer that gets a name is truly special. I hope every deer hunter reads this book, and pass it to a non-hunter.

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