



John Vaillant's first book was the national bestseller *The Golden Spruce*, which won the Governor General's Literary Award for Non-Fiction in 2005.

He is also a freelance magazine writer whose work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *National Geographic*, *Outside* and *The Walrus*. In 2006, he was the recipient of a grant from the National Geographic Society Expeditions Council. His work in this and other fields has taken him to five continents and five oceans.

Vaillant has homesteaded in Alaska; fished in the Bering Sea; sailed to Hawai'i; taught learning-disabled children; skied across the Beartooth Mountains; pursued vampires in Transylvania, giant crocodiles in India and tigers in Siberia; worked with juvenile delinquents; ridden a motorcycle powered by a Corvette engine; taken part in a Navajo peyote ceremony; swam with beluga whales in Hudson's Bay and with sharks in the Florida Keys; participated in two homebirths; driven on the Arctic Ocean; cooked for a hundred people on a regular basis; mopped a thousand floors; played slide guitar and sung for money; crossed the Rockies on horseback; hopped trains; eaten whale, camel and polar bear meat; gotten drunk at a Romanian shepherds' convention; used dynamite; and led workshops with people ranging from convicts to corporate executives on issues of race, gender and globalization.

He was born in the Year of the Tiger, and he lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, with his wife and children.

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