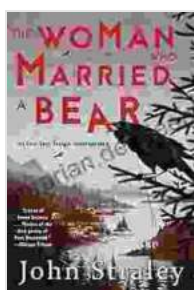


# The Woman Who Married a Bear: The Cecil Younger Investigation

In 1959, a man named Cecil Younger shocked the world when he claimed to have married a bear. Younger's story was met with disbelief and ridicule, but he insisted that he was telling the truth. An investigation into Younger's claims would eventually reveal a tragic story of exploitation and abuse.



## The Woman Who Married a Bear (A Cecil Younger Investigation Book 1) by John Straley

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 3525 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 244 pages



## Cecil Younger

Cecil Younger was born in 1931 in Kentucky. He was a poor and uneducated man with a criminal record. In the late 1950s, Younger was working as a carnival worker when he met a bear trainer named Martha Camp. Camp had a trained bear named Honey, and Younger was immediately smitten with the animal. He began spending all of his time with Honey, and soon he was taking her home with him at night.

## **The Wedding**

In June 1959, Younger and Honey were married in a ceremony officiated by a justice of the peace. The wedding was attended by a small group of friends and family, and Younger even purchased a wedding ring for Honey. After the wedding, Younger and Honey lived together in a small shack in the woods. Younger claimed that he and Honey were very happy together, and that they even had a child (a bear cub named Little Bear).

## **The Investigation**

Soon after Younger and Honey's wedding, authorities began to investigate the case. They were concerned about the welfare of the bear, and they wanted to make sure that Younger was not exploiting her. The investigation quickly revealed that Younger was not taking proper care of Honey. The bear was malnourished and had several injuries. It was clear that Younger was using the bear to make money. He would often take Honey to fairs and carnivals, where he would charge people to see her. He also sold pictures of himself and Honey to newspapers and magazines.

The investigation also revealed that Younger had a history of violence towards animals. He had been convicted of cruelty to animals on several occasions. In one case, he had beaten a dog to death. The authorities concluded that Younger was not fit to own a bear, and they ordered him to surrender Honey to a zoo. Younger initially refused, but he eventually agreed to let Honey go.

## **The Aftermath**

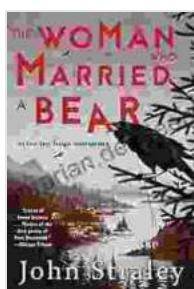
Honey was taken to the Louisville Zoo, where she lived for the rest of her life. She died in 1972 at the age of 13. Younger was charged with animal

cruelty, and he was sentenced to one year in prison. After his release from prison, Younger continued to make claims that he had married a bear. However, most people did not believe him, and he eventually faded into obscurity.

The story of Cecil Younger and Honey the bear is a tragic one. It is a story of exploitation and abuse, and it is a reminder of the importance of protecting animals from those who would harm them. The investigation into Younger's claims revealed a sad and disturbing truth, and it is a story that should never be forgotten.

### Additional Information

- NPR: The Man Who Married a Bear
- Kentucky Monthly: The Bear Bride of Kentucky
- Amazon: The Bear Bride of Kentucky

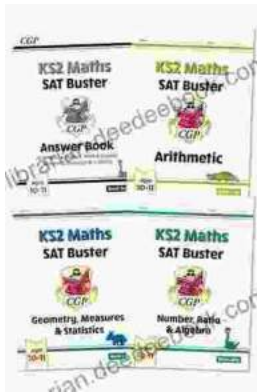


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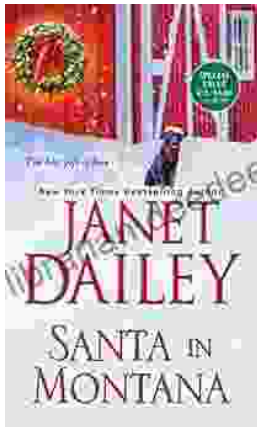
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