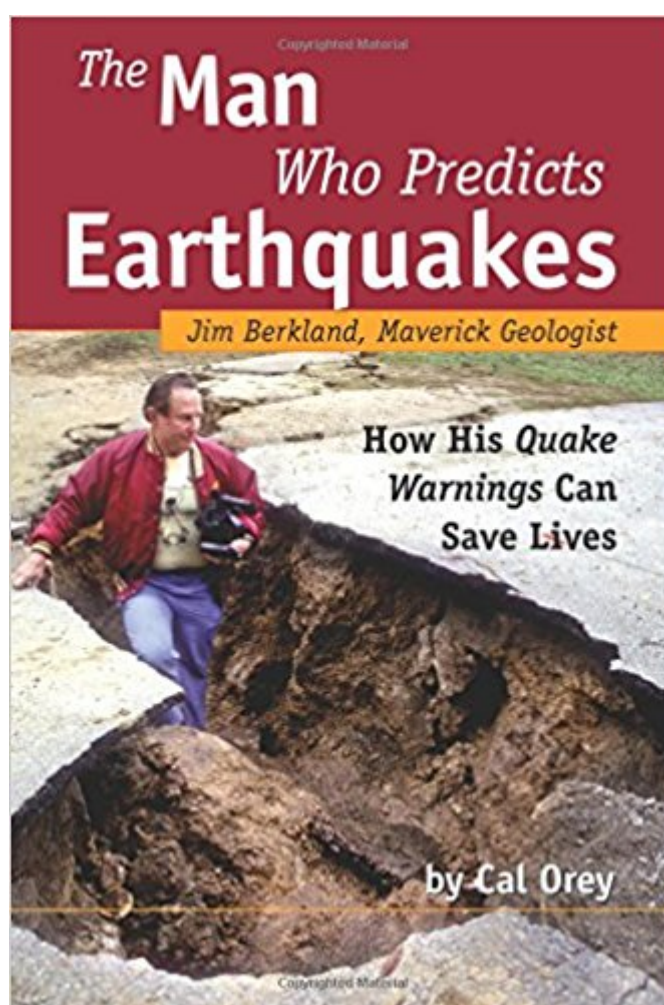


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# The Man Who Predicts Earthquakes: Jim Berkland, Maverick Geologist--How His Quake Warnings Can Save Lives



## Synopsis

Meet Jim Berkland, a California geologist whose forecast of the famous October 17, 1989 World Series Quake that rumbled through the San Francisco Bay Area was right on the money. This is the first book to document a geologist's uncanny ability to foretell earthquakes around the world. This fascinating read includes stories of earthquake survivors, a wealth of details about seismic activity in earthquake prone regions around the world.

## Book Information

Paperback: 282 pages

Publisher: Sentient Publications; 1st Sentient Publications Ed edition (December 15, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1591810361

ISBN-13: 978-1591810360

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 18 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,109,767 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #100 in Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Geology > Volcanology #320 in Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Seismology #428 in Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Earthquakes & Volcanoes

## Customer Reviews

Cal Orey's wonderfully written book about geologist Jim Berkland's unique but scientifically unorthodox approach to predictions of forthcoming earth tremors should register 9.9 on the Richter Scale!--Clarisa Bernhardt, columnist for shirleymaclaine.com  
Twenty to thirty percent of children in the area woke up more than a minute before the Kobe, Japan, earthquake in 1995. Cal Orey's book shows that a nature-loving geologist like Jim Berkland, with a heart of a child, can forecast earthquakes.--Motoji Ikeya, Professor Emeritus of Osaka University, Japan; author of Earthquakes and Animals  
A fascinating read full of amazing anecdotes and provocative information. Orey's book entertains while challenging conventional science. So be warned, once you start reading this book, you won't put it down.--Kathleen Antrim, author of Capital Offense, columnist for the San Francisco Examiner  
In this landmark book, journalist Cal Orey demonstrates that Berkland will cross any chasm to deliver his quake wisdom.--Jim Baker, County Geologist of Santa Clara County, California  
Can Berkland predict earthquakes? It seems so, and veteran author

Cal Orey does an extraordinary job of not only telling Jim's story to the world, but also providing readers with an enormous amount of valuable information about earthquakes. Frankly, I wish I had this book when I was researching my own book about disasters. Highly recommended.--Stephen Spignesi, author of Catastrophe! The 100 Greatest Disasters of All Time

Cal Orey is a Northern California-based accomplished author and journalist specializing in topics such as health, nutrition, science, and pets. She holds two degrees in English (Creative Writing) from SFSU. Her books include the hugely popular Healing Powers book series translated in 20 languages. Orey's reader-friendly prose is warm and witty, created in a down-to-earth first-person narrative.

Love unorthodoxy! This guy was poo poo'd for a long time for taking the 'lost pet reports' in newspapers seriously as a signal of an upcoming earthquake. This guy rocks and the book is really informative and interesting!

;) )

An entertaining book, I hope it is classified as biography rather than science. Jim O. Berkland, the self-proclaimed JOB, battles high science with his claims that earthquakes can be predicted by counting runaway dogs and cats (p. 48), ear tones (p. 65), headaches (p. 67), dreams (p. 75), and solar flares (p. 111). Other interesting claims include that magnets lost their strength before the 1755 Lisbon earthquake (p. 113), that someone had a psychic premonition of the 9-11 WTC collapses (p. 129), there is perhaps earthquake weather - "warm, humid, deathly quiet" (p. 211), an earthquake time of day - near dawn and dusk (p. 212), an M5.3 earthquake generated 18"-high waves (p. 229). His foremost claim is that predictions based on tides are accurate enough to issue warnings. Unfortunately, this idea is centuries old, and was debunked decades ago with precision and emphasis by dozens of much more careful studies than Berkland has done. Still, much of the rest of the book (the parts I did NOT mention above) is accurate and most of it interesting, a good compendium of folklore well-told. Postscript: I got an email from a USGS scientist as an alert that my name was on this moderately favorable review of a controversial book, suspecting it was a pretender. I guess someone does read these reviews.

I loved this book. Cal Orey did an excellent job explaining Jim's methods. I've already read it once,

marking with a yellow felt pen the things I really wanted to remember. Now I'm rereading it putting key words in the margins so I can find things quickly. I especially loved the page that goes with each chapter called "Earthshaking Facts to Dog-ear." This book is a must read for anyone interested in quakes and quake predicting. Jim Berkland has come up with some interesting signs that that we all could be watching.

I wrote the introduction to \*The Man Who Predicts Earthquakes\* because I believe that James Berkland's work on earthquake prediction deserves serious attention. Cal Orey's book provides a valuable contribution to our understanding of mysterious earthquake precursors and it offers a fascinating overview of James Berkland's colorful career as a maverick geologist. Berkland's adventures and explorations on the frontiers of scientific discovery will haunt conventional seismologists and intrigue open-minded students of unexplained phenomena.

This book causes you to think about the possibility of an earth quake and how to handle it. Lots of good advise and information.

It is important when reading this book to do so with an open mind. Jim Berkland has considered possibilities that may be more indicative of predicting earthquakes than the scientific community is willing to concede. It is commendable that Jim has the courage to present his findings even when the winds of approval are against him. Surely history has shown that there are those who did NOT "go with the flow" and were in the end shown to be remarkably correct. I thoroughly enjoyed the book and respect the information presented. I hope that Jim will continue his efforts.

When I first saw this book's title and subtitle, thoughts of a new Alfred Wegener came to mind. I thought that, perhaps, this "maverick geologist" is really on to something. But it became clear to me after reading the first few pages that this book was not at all what I had expected. Instead of basing predictions on well-grounded science, some of the parameters used by this geologist tend to border on what many would call the paranormal. Nevertheless, I read on; perhaps his approach really works, I thought. After reading the book cover to cover, it is my opinion that if this geologist has indeed discovered a fairly reliable way of predicting earthquakes, then this book does not do him any favors - in fact it does the exact opposite. This book is really a jumble of topics related to earthquakes with no apparent logical progression. It contains a very brief mini-biography of the geologist (a couple of pages), several repetitive comments on his campaign to have his methods

recognized by the scientific establishment, anecdotes from people who have experienced various earthquakes, many repetitive statements on certain earthquakes, discussions on animals being able to sense earthquakes before they happen, on people who claim that they can do the same, on clairvoyants and even on Nostradamus's predictions - all these peppered haphazardly throughout. What I believe the author should have done to truly promote this geologist and his methods is to be very objective and neutral; to subject his results to the scrutiny of the scientific method and very carefully analyze his predictions (and whether or not they pan out) using standard scientific and statistical methods. This would establish whether his predictions are indeed better than chance, and if so, by how much. But when the arguments presented are mainly one-sided and the scientific establishment is portrayed as, at best, being closed-minded, the author's agenda comes into question and so does the soundness of the subject matter being promoted. Although lacking in logical structure, the book's prose is clear and friendly. This book would likely be of some interest to those living in earthquake-prone areas, those with an interest in learning about earthquake descriptions and survivor experiences, those interested in the dos and don'ts regarding earthquakes and, of course, those interested in the methods used by some to predict earthquakes.

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