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## What's the snake in jungle book

When you handle deadly snakes for a living, caution is job one. When you handle snakes for God, it is not. Let's meet some folks in both worlds.By Julia Layton The bamboo hedge always offers a challenge.Is it just me, or do other gardeners look outside in late summer and find that their yard has grown into an impassable jungle? I'm always preaching that the best time to prune trees and shrubs is in early spring while they're dormant, and yes, technically that's right. But here in late summer where I live, the rumbling afternoon thunderstorms inspire a flush of vegetation that makes me wonder if I'm in a rainforest. And inevitably - usually on the hottest afternoon on record - I'll "have it up to here" (sometimes literally), and I'll head outdoors with my pruning shears.This time, I marched right through the grasping rose tendrils, ducked under laden tree branches, dodged falling walnuts, and headed straight for the real problem area - the overgrown bamboo hedge, the fence, and the wild grapevine that attempts a hostile takeover every year. I chose that spot because it's the toughest to tame, it was 95 degrees, and that's how I roll. It's an annual tradition.De-vining the hedge is a tug-of-war that never fails to involve some tumbles, as the vine slips loose from the tall shrubs and trees in its grasp. And cutting back the bamboo involves reaching into the depths of the tight spider-webbed hedge to sever 20-foot towering rogue stems, which then fall - in slow motion - down onto my head. The entire mess must then be bear-hugged and hauled up to the street for the mulch truck. It's a great way to vent frustration, and if you don't have any to vent, it'll give you some!But after an hour or two of wrestling, the rewards finally come into view - a mountain of cuttings higher than the cars, a tamed, tidy yard to admire over a nice tall iced tea, and a body that will sink down into a bubble bath with blissful relief. This down time - after tackling a tough job, and before the poison ivy sets in - is a reflective, serene time.For my oft-overworking brain, the summer pruning chores are the perfect therapy, as a cloud of cognition distills down into a few very clear and concrete tasks: cut this, pull that, pick up the pieces, and watch for snakes. The simple focus, the physical work, and the well-deserved rest afterward are enough on their own, but usually I'm surprised to find that whatever was on my mind has detangled as well, leaving me with a clearer vision and sometimes a few answers. I'll take that any way I can get it!This year's vine-a-palooza might in fact be the last one - or, should I say, it's about to be someone else's problem. But as I look toward moving away from one jungle, I'm pretty sure that if the next place doesn't present its "opportunities" right away, I'll seek them out soon enough! Source: Disney Not one, but two star-studded live-action movies of the Rudyard Kipling short story collection The Jungle Book will come out in the next two years, with Warner Bros. betting that audiences will want to see the exact same story with a different cast just a year after Disney releases its reinterpretation of the tale about a young boy raised by wolves in the jungle. Disney, which created the famous cartoon version of The Jungle Book in 1967, is beating Warner Bros. to the punch. Disney's Jungle Book is being directed by Iron Man director Jon Favreau and is set to come out in October of next year. Warner Bros.' The Jungle Book: Origins is being directed by Andy Serkis and is set for an October 2016 release. Both films feature hugely famous casts for the voice roles of the various animals that interact with the young Mowgli, who is raised by wolves after being orphaned and abandoned in the Indian jungle. Both films will use a mixture of live-action and CGI. The Warner version recently announced its cast members. Per The Hollywood Reporter, Andy Serkis will voice Baloo the bear as well as direct, Christian Bale will voice the fierce but friendly panther Bagheera, Benedict Cumberbatch will be the villainous tiger Shere Khan, Cate Blanchett will be the python Kaa, and Naomie Harris will Nisha, one of the wolves that raises Mowgli. The boy will be played by the young actor Rohan Chand, who will actually appear in the film. Chand acted alongside Jason Bateman in Bad Words. As for Disney, Bill Murray will voice Baloo, Ben Kingsley is Bagheera, Christopher Walken is the orangutan King Louie, Scarlett Johansson is Kaa, Lupita Nyong'o is the wolf mother Raksha, and Idris Elba is Shere Khan, according to Deadline. Newcomer Neel Sethi will play Mowgli. The story behind the scenes as to how both adaptations ended up getting made at the exact same time is unknown, but likely both studios ended up putting down money and decided not to back down from making the film. The original Disney film deviated from the novel by overlooking the book's dark tone, but was acclaimed for its great soundtrack, animation, and voice cast. Disney has made a live-action version of The Jungle Book before. The 1994 Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book has John Cleese in it and got decent reviews, with a 92 percent fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes, though again, Disney was criticized for not sticking close enough to Kipling's work despite using his name in the title. Whether or not Disney will decide to stick to the source material this time is uncertain at this point. The whole concept of two movies about basically the same thing coming out around the same time isn't unheard of, but it's less than desirable for whichever studio's film lands the better cast or comes out second. Just this year, there have been two different Hercules movies re-telling the story of the demigod. Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson's Hercules stole the thunder of The Legend of Hercules starring Twilight's Kellan Lutz that came out earlier this year. While Hercules isn't performing spectacularly with the critics or at the box office, it beat its Hercules rival using the star power of the Rock. Both Jungle Book adaptations have the most top-notch casts any filmmaker could dream of, so Warner Bros. isn't going to set itself apart by out-casting Disney. The most likely scenario is that The Jungle Book: Origins will try to go dark and edgy, pointedly erasing much of the good, wholesome family fun the Disney animated feature is known for by playing up the darker side of the Kipling stories. Whether that can convince film-goers to pay to see basically the same movie just a year after Disney's comes out remains to be seen. Given the title, perhaps Warner Bros. should just promote the film as if it's a sequel to Disney's and call it a day. More from Entertainment Cheat Sheet: Follow Jacqueline on Twitter @Jacqui\_WSCS After reading your article "Life in the Silicon Rain Forest" (June), I felt it necessary to comment. You mention the "commitment" of those people who move to Oregon, while ignoring the "comitment" of those who have lived in Oregon for many years -- that is, an attitude much similar to Tom McCall's infamous "visit but don't stay" attitude.We moved our small label-manufacturing company (\$250,000 sales) to Oregon five years ago. We have been spectacularly unsuccessful in cracking the local market. Businesspeople in this area, for the most part, have no desire to support newcomers. They seem to feel that you must be here 20 years first, then they will buy from you. Many will buy from any itinerant peddler who comes through, or from any catalog they get in the mail, but not from a newly moved business.We have quit the local Chamber of Commerce over its failure to address the problem of local business refusing to buy locally. And we are making no bones about our attitude: "If you want us to shop at your business, we expect you to buy at ours" -- we just state it, in plain English.The quality of life in southern Oregon is good -- good for raising children, great if you are an avid outdoorsman. But, be sure you can support yourself, and your company, without local business for at least several years. 1 Avoid These Investing Pitfalls When Buying the Highest-Dividend Stocks 2 What Is Spatial Distribution in Geography? 3 Unscramble My Words: Best Word Games For Those Who Want to Stay Mentally Fit 4 What Is the Difference Between a Kappa and a Nupe? 5 What Are Scope and Limitations in Research? The bears own the wires, that's for sure. "Brush Fire Threatens Northern California High Voltage Power Line" just comes over the tape. Nuclear leaks, earthquakes in Taiwan and Mexico. Killer mosquitoes. This stuff is pure downer and it has a cumulatively fatiguing effect. It is rough out there. Just rough. Tell us what you think on our message boards. For us, it is October. We don't just buy any old dip. We are waiting for the big dip. This ain't it. So, we are not taking advantage, for example, of the big IBM (IBM) - Get Report dip. Normally we would. Down five, no preannouncement expected, tough quarter, but still probably pretty good. We are not chasing Gateway (GTW) up here, even though we think that's a solid story. And we let some Bristol-Myers (BMV) - Get Report go on the strength. Lean. Playing it lean. No sense getting our heads blown off this early in the month. James J. Cramer is manager of a hedge fund and co-founder of TheStreet.com. At time of publication, his fund was long Bristol-Myers. His fund often buys and sells securities that are the subject of his columns, both before and after the columns are published, and the positions that his fund takes may change at any time. Under no circumstances does the information in this column represent a recommendation to buy or sell stocks. Cramer's writings provide insights into the dynamics of money management and are not a solicitation for transactions. While he cannot provide investment advice or recommendations, he invites you to comment on his column at jjcletters@thestreet.com. XIMAD is offering Snake over at the Windows Phone Marketplace with is yet another variation of the classic snake game. The game of snake has gone a long way since the days of the monochrome version that was on so many Nokia bar phones. The game premise hasn't changed a bit. You guide your snake around the screen collecting gems and artifacts while avoiding obstacles. The game has two modes, Arcade and Challenge. The Arcade Mode has you score points to work your way through multiple levels. Each level has a required number of gems to collect in order to advance to the next level. The further you advance, the more challenging the levels become. The Challenge Mode is more of a free-style game that has you competing for a high score. The more gems you collect, the longer the snake becomes. The longer your snake becomes, the more challenging maneuvers become. More after the break. You can control the snake by one of two methods. You can have Buttons Mode where virtual button appear at the bottom of the screen. You also have the Screen Mode that allows you to steer your snake by tapping on the screen in the direction you want the snake to turn. I found the Screen Mode to work the best. The buttons had a tendency to put your fingers in the way as you steer your snake around the bottom of the screen. As you collect gems, you will also find artifacts or bonus items that will turn you into a ghost with the ability to crawl through obstacles, speed up, slow down, and other bonus abilities. The graphics are nice, game play challenging and well representative of the original. Snake is a good game to pass the time and, all in all, XIMAD did a nice job of putting a new twist on the game of snake. If your a fan of the snake genre, Snake will be a nice addition to your gaming library. If you're looking for a nice game to pass the time with, Snake will fit that bill as well. The one downside to the game is that there is not a trial version available for Snake. The full version is running \$1.29 and you can find it here (opens Zune) over at the Marketplace.

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