

You Do

“Staying Alive”, Time Magazine

Brian Kang: A surfer saves himself from the jaws of death.

In November of 2004, Brian King sat on his surfboard off a California beach. He was waiting for a wave when-BAM! Kang, 38, remembers a giant force hitting his left side. “I look over and see this huge black tail fin sticking out of the water,” he says. Kang had run into every surfer’s nightmare-a great white shark. “It had me in its mouth.

“Brian was off his board and there was all this churning water,” says Jennifer Savage. She had gone surfing with Kang.

The 18-foot shark let go of Kang’s left hip and legs for a moment. He was bleeding, but he climbed back on his board. A few seconds later, the great white surfaced right beside him. They were almost face-to-face. Kang tried to push the shark away. Then he punched it in the nose-an easily hurt part of a shark’s body. “I cut my thumb pretty bad. At that point it went back under the water,” says Kang. Kang knew he had to paddle for his life. He finally made it to shore. It took about five minutes, but to Kang it seemed like forever. Someone on the beach called 911, and Kang was rushed to the hospital. The shark’s bite had sliced through part of his left hip to the bone. The shark had also come close to cutting a major nerve. If the nerve had been cut, Kang would not have been able to move most of his body.

After three months, Kang is walking once again. And he is back on his board. “I just feel a deep connection to the ocean,” he says. “I’d rather take my chances out on the water than driving on a highway!”

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