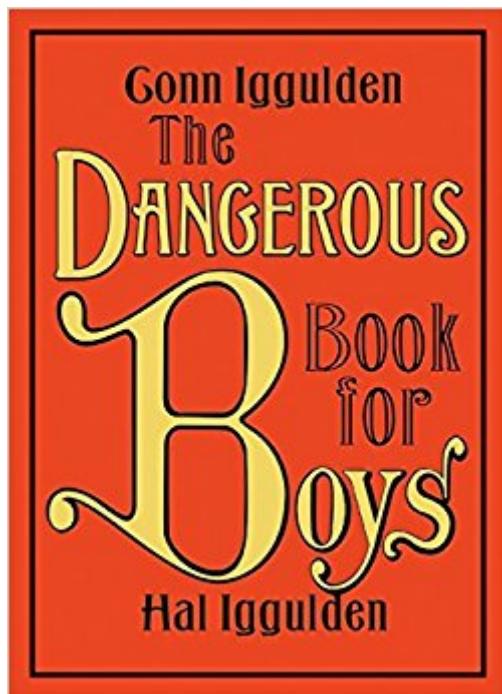


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The Dangerous Book For Boys



Synopsis

The bestselling book for every boy from eight to eighty, covering essential boyhood skills such as building tree houses*, learning how to fish, finding true north, and even answering the age old question of what the big deal with girls is. In this digital age there is still a place for knots, skimming stones and stories of incredible courage. This book recaptures Sunday afternoons, stimulates curiosity, and makes for great father-son activities. The brothers Conn and Hal have put together a wonderful collection of all things that make being young or young at heart fun—building go-carts and electromagnets, identifying insects and spiders, and flying the world's best paper airplanes. The completely revised American Edition includes: The Greatest Paper Airplane in the WorldThe Seven Wonders of the Ancient WorldThe Five Knots Every Boy Should KnowStickballSlingshotsFossilsBuilding a Treehouse*Making a Bow and ArrowFishing (revised with US Fish)Timers and TripwiresBaseball's "Most Valuable Players" Famous Battles-Including Lexington and Concord, The Alamo, and Gettysburg Spies-Codes and CiphersMaking a Go-CartNavajo Code Talkers' DictionaryGirlsCloud FormationsThe States of the U.S. Mountains of the U.S.NavigationThe Declaration of Independence Skimming StonesMaking a PeriscopeThe Ten CommandmentsCommon US TreesTimeline of American History

Book Information

Hardcover: 288 pages

Publisher: William Morrow; unknown edition (April 24, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062208977

ISBN-13: 978-0062208972

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 1 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 1,478 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #4,739 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Nature Crafts #3 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Hiking & Camping > Camping #10 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Hiking & Camping > Instructional

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Equal parts droll and gorgeous nostalgia book and heartfelt plea for a renewed sense of adventure

in the lives of boys and men, Conn and Hal Iggulden's *The Dangerous Book for Boys* became a mammoth bestseller in the United Kingdom in 2006. Adapted, in moderation, for American customs in this edition (cricket is gone, rugby remains; conkers are out, Navajo Code Talkers in), *The Dangerous Book* is a guide book for dads as well as their sons, as a reminder of lore and technique that have not yet been completely lost to the digital age. Recall the adventures of Scott of the Antarctic and the Battle of the Somme, relearn how to palm a coin, tan a skin, and, most charmingly, wrap a package in brown paper and string. The book's ambitions are both modest and winningly optimistic: you get the sense that by learning how to place a splint or write in invisible ink, a boy might be prepared for anything, even girls (which warrant a small but wise chapter of their own). *Inside The Dangerous Book for Boys* *Figure 8 Knot Sheet Bend Knot* *The Battle of Waterloo Questions for Conn Iggulden* Conn and Hal Iggulden are two brothers who have not forgotten what it was like to be boys. Conn taught for many years before becoming one of the most admired and popular young historical novelists with his *Emperor* series, based on the life of Julius Caesar, and his newly embarked series on Genghis Khan, while Hal is a theater director. We asked Conn about their collaboration. *.com*: It's difficult to describe what a phenomenon *The Dangerous Book for Boys* was in the UK last year. When I would check the bestseller list on our sister site, *.co.uk*, there would be, along with your book, which spent much of the year at the top of the list, a half-dozen apparent knockoff books of similar boy knowledge. Clearly, you tapped into something big. What do you think it was? Iggulden: In a word, fathers. I am one myself and I think we've become aware that the whole "health and safety" overprotective culture isn't doing our sons any favors. Boys need to learn about risk. They need to fall off things occasionally, or--and this is the important bit--they'll take worse risks on their own. If we do away with challenging playgrounds and cancel school trips for fear of being sued, we don't end up with safer boys--we end up with them walking on train tracks. In the long run, it's not safe at all to keep our boys in the house with a Playstation. It's not good for their health or their safety. You only have to push a boy on a swing to see how much enjoys the thrill of danger. It's hard-wired. Remove any opportunity to test his courage and they'll find ways to test themselves that will be seriously dangerous for everyone around them. I think of it like playing the lottery--someone has to say "Look, you won't win--and your children won't be hurt. Relax. It won't be you." I think that's the core of the book's success. It isn't just a collection of things to do. The heroic stories alone are something we haven't had for too long. It isn't about climbing Everest, but it is an attitude, a philosophy for fathers and sons. Our institutions are too wrapped up in terror over being sued--so we have to do things with them ourselves. This book isn't a bad place to start. As for knockoff books--great. They'll give my son something to read that doesn't involve him learning a dull

moral lesson of some kind--just enjoying an adventure or learning skills and crafts so that he has a feeling of competence and confidence--just as we have. .com: You made some changes for the U.S. edition, and I for one am sorry that you have removed the section on conkers, if only because it's such a lovely and mysterious word. What are (or what is) conkers? Iggulden: Horse chestnuts strung on a shoelace and knocked against one another until they shatter. In the entire history of the world, no one has ever been hurt by a conker, but it's still been banned by some British schools, just in case. Another school banned paper airplanes. Honestly, it's enough to make you weep, if I did that sort of thing, which I try not to. Reading Jane Austen is still allowed, however. .com: What knowledge did you decide was important to add for American boys? I notice in both editions you have an excellent and useful section on table football, as played with coins. Is paper football strictly an American pastime? I'm not sure I could have gotten through the fourth grade without it. Iggulden: I like knowing the details of battles, so Gettysburg and the Alamo had to go in, along with the Gettysburg address, stickball, state capitals, U.S. mountains, American trees, insects, U.S. historical timelines, and a lot of others. Navajo code talkers of WWII is a great chapter. It probably helps that I am a huge fan of America. It was only while rewriting for the U.S. that I realized how many positive references there already are. You have NASA and NASA trumps almost anything. As for paper football, ever since I thought of putting the book together, people keep saying things like "You have rockets in there, yes? Everyone loves rockets!" Paper football is the first American one, but there will be many others. No book in the world is long enough to put them all in--unless we do a sequel, of course. .com: Do you think The Dangerous Book for Boys is being read by actual boys, or only by nostalgic adults? Have you seen boys getting up from their Xboxes to go outside and perform first aid or tan animal skins or build go-carts? Iggulden: I've had a lot of emails and letters from boys who loved the book--as well as fathers. I've had responses from kids as young as ten and an old man of 87, who pointed out a problem with the shadow stick that we've since changed. The thing to remember is that we may be older and more cynical every year, but boys simply aren't. If they are given the chance to make a go-cart with their dad, they jump at it. Mine did. Nothing gives me more pleasure than to know the book is being used with fathers and sons together, trying things out. Nothing is more valuable to a boy than time with his dad, learning something fun--or something difficult. That's part of the attitude too. If it's hard, you don't make it easy, you grab it by the throat and hang on for as long as it takes. The book is often bought by fathers, of course. Their sons don't know Scott of the Antarctic is a great adventure story. How could they if it isn't taught any more? Good, heroic stories don't appear much in modern school curriculums--and then we wonder why boys don't seem interested. .com: And finally, on to the important questions: Should Pluto still be a

planet? And what was the best dinosaur? Iggulden: Pluto is a planet. I know there are scientists who say it isn't, but it's big enough to be round and it has a moon, for crying out loud. Of course it's a planet. Give it ten years and they'll be agreeing with me again. As for the best dinosaur, it depends what you mean by best. For sheer perfection, it probably has to be the shark and the crocodile. Modern ones are smaller but their record for sheer survival is pretty impressive. I only hope humanity can do as well. The only thing that will stop us is worrying too much. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

Grade 4-8
Intentionally old-fashioned and politically incorrect, this eclectic collection addresses the undeniable boy-appeal of certain facts and activities. Dozens of short chapters, in fairly random order, cover a wide range of topics in conversational prose. Simple instructions for coin tricks and paper airplanes alternate with excerpts from history such as Famous Battles and facts about ancient wonders of the world and astronomy. The dangerous aspect is more apparent in such chapters as Making Cloth Fireproof, and Hunting and Cooking a Rabbit, but also applies to the overall premise that action is fun and can be worth the risks. A section on stickball, for instance, includes advice to possibly flee the vicinity in the event of a broken window. The information is appropriately concise. The knot-tying section, for example, sticks to five basic varieties with clear instructions and useful diagrams. Occasional topics such as Marbling Paper and Latin Phrases Every Boy Should Know may not fit the stereotypical interests of young males, but support the general theme of cultivating curiosity. The authors refer to their own experiences as they tested the activities, lending an appealing personal tone. Tongue-in-cheek humor emerges throughout, notably in eight bits of advice offered in the chapter called Girls. Already a best seller in England, this American edition features several adjustments, such as substituting The Declaration of Independence for Patron Saints of Britain. Both premise and content should appeal to many boys, and might be even more successful when nostalgic dads join in. Steven Engelfried, Multnomah County Library, OR Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

Bought as a gift for a young man (11 years) who is also in the Boy Scouts. He said it is "great", and buried his nose into this for long periods, until he had read it all...then went back and re-read parts he really liked. When a kid voluntarily wants to talk and expand about things he read in a book...that is a wonderful thing!

I've bought this book for 3 families, including my own. My 22 year old son refused to allow me to give it to a family friend because he loved it so much. At the beginning of the book is an old school quote from Sir Frederick Treves: "Don't bother about genius. Don't worry about being clever. Trust to hard work, perseverance and determination. And the best motto for a long march is, "Don't grumble. Plug on!" If this motto appeals to you, you'll enjoy this book.

This was bought as a gift for a 10 yr old boy. I didn't get a lot of chance to look through it, but I am going to be buying one for my son when he's old enough. I love the first page quote

I'm reading the Boy and Girl books. I missed a lot of practical stuff to learn. Finally getting around to ORIGAMI and Knot tying. So yeah. This is at BEST an inspiration. I don't know how accurate it is. YouTube is not really the best place to go for a review on this book. There are basher vids out there sad to say. They're only good at show casing the negatives. But for any young teen, or lazy person, or whatever the excuse you have. This is really a decent in general book to get.

I was given a copy of this book over a decade ago (the British version) and loved it for myself! I now have 29 nieces and nephews - each received a copy on their 9th birthday. It's become a bit of a tradition, and they all love it. My one year old already peruses the pages with his dad nightly, and is getting pretty good at making paper airplanes. I highly recommend this book to learn general life skills in a way that kids (and adults) can follow and enjoy!

This is a Christmas present for my grandson, it will also be for his Father, they will have many many good times with this book. I love the idea and looking through the book I am so excited to give this to them. This book will promote the bonding between father and son. It can also foster this between any two family members Mother and Son, Uncle/Aunt and nephew. LOVE IT

One of the points made in a recent book I read, Boys Adrift, is that boys today don't have enough opportunities to get out there and experience the world first-hand, explore nature and..yes...take on some risk. I'd strongly suggest reading that book as well as this one. After reading The Dangerous Book for Boys, my son actually got the concept of the Prime Meridian and other information that he couldn't understand simply from reading a book. He had to have a context, a perspective and, in some cases, real experience. Another example: it is quite one thing to READ about bows and arrows and another to build and use them. For those protective parents out there, you can get some

reassurance from the fact that there are some cautions and you, of course, can monitor the activities - although I prefer to join in the play. This is a refreshing alternative to so many of the other options available for boys today. As the first book I noted indicated, boys are not reading much these days. This book should counterbalance that and be a great temptation for boys and impossible to put down, except to try out the various suggestions for fun! I can testify that when one of my sons saw it, he immediately started gathering materials to build a treehouse.

I bought this book after seeing the author on the Colbert show (or was it the Daily Show?). I loved the idea of the book and ordered it from immediately. On arrival I found it exceeds my expectation. It reminds me a lot of the Popular Mechanics books from the 30's & 40's that I found in my grandmothers attic when I was a kid. The style is archaic, which is part of the charm. My 6 year old son, who really isn't into "chapter books", went nuts for this book. I think this mostly had to do with the title, but as we scanned each chapter together he seemed to get more and more excited. Before his bed time we read "coin tricks", "Girls" and he started planning how to get the badges found in the back of the book. He managed to learn the "French Drop" and proceeded to show everyone his new trick. Tomorrow he wants to hear about hunting and cooking rabbits. My wife was a bit nervous about the book, especially after seeing the section on hunting and cooking a rabbit. But I think she liked the section on "Girls" and she realizes that this book is targeted to boys, not Moms. It's definitely a hit. I will be reading chapters out of it to my son for some time to come. But I don't mind and will probably learn a thing or two myself. Update: It's more than a year later. The book is dog-eared, dirty and worn but my (now) 7 year old still reads and loves this book. I doubt there is a better review you can get from a 7 year old.

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