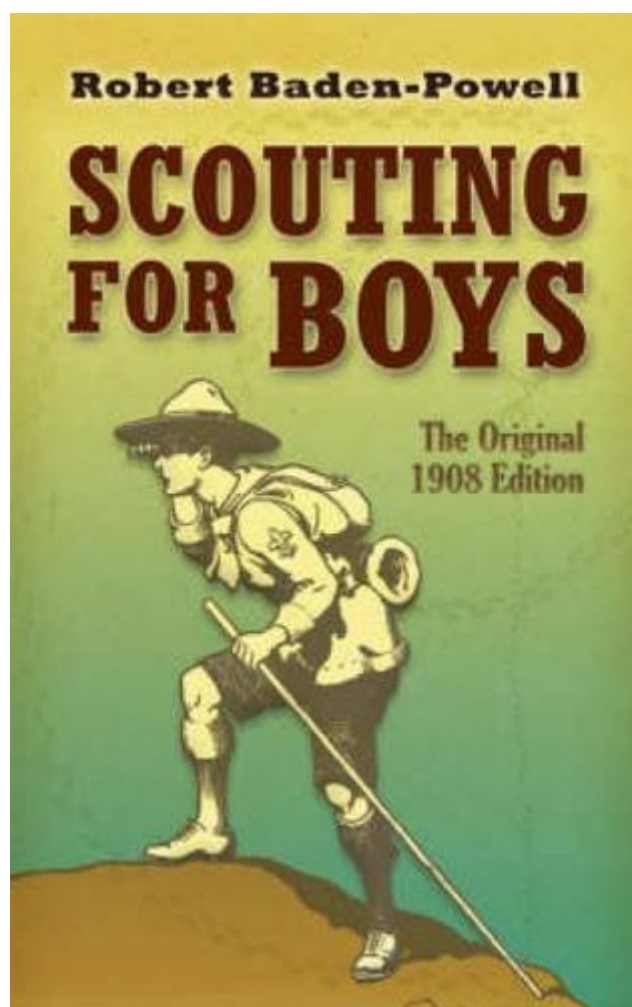


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Scouting For Boys



Customer Reviews

I was an Eagle Scout as a boy, and now I'm the founding Scoutmaster of my sons' troop. As such, I was anxious to get a copy of this hard cover version. Baden-Powell's work is a classic and well worth the read. The problem with this edition is the Introduction by Elleke Boehmer. Without it, the book is a 5-star. Ms. Boehmer appears a non-believer. Reading her is like taking a pessimistic art critic along side while viewing an art gallery. Far more benefit (for all concerned) would occur without her input. For each positive she states about BP, she mentions a negative. She also spends just over two pages discussing homosexual tendencies (pp xxxii-xxxiii) within BP's works, something which is out of place in this work. I started to list several quotes, but I think one sums it up best of all from the back cover: "She has never been a scout, but she did once shake hands with Lady Baden-Powell at a jubilee celebration in South Africa." I guess that must make her an expert.

Great book, terrible intro. What were the publisher's thinking? Do they want to sell books and have this recommended or not? The Intro by Elleke Boehmer is so longwinded (39 pages) and so derogatory toward the Scouts and it's founder it's mind-boggling. She obviously has no respect for the organization, and the sparse accolades she dispenses are only a cover in my opinion so she can degrade and dissect the Scouts two-fold thereafter. I recommend 'Boy Scouts Handbook: The first Edition, 1911' (the Dover publications version) until they reprint this book with a positive and uplifting intro; one that makes you want to read or buy the book in the first place. new update, the dover edition 'scouting for boys' is great. much better intro to a great book!

This book is the basic foundation of the largest youth organisation in the history of the world and has been printed in more editions and languages than most other books apart from the Christian Bible. It was designed to be read by young people and to motivate them to develop all of their skills. It continues to be a major force in motivating young people to prepare to be active citizens in society. However it also contains simple truths for adults on the nature of young people and how best to help them learn and to achieve their full potential. It is required reading for adults educating or working with young people. Read it, enjoy it and then come join Scouting.

There are two ways to read this book and you don't have much of a choice which one you use. You can read it as a child or you can read it as an adult. It makes for completely different reading. I'll review reading it as a youth and as an adult because I assure you it's a different experience. As a child, this book has the magic of Peter Pan and the practicality of a school book. You hear the war

stories of Sir Robert Baden-Powell; they're fascinating heroic tails of the Boer War. At that age it's unlikely that an American boy (such as myself) knows what the Boer Wars were, so the book lacks the distraction of knowing the behind the scenes (the British were liberating concentration camps...it's heavy stuff as an adult.) Instead of touching on the topics of the war itself, the book uses incidents in the war to teach heroism, selflessness, courage, and creativity. The book keeps the material light enough to enjoy at that age but is still incredibly fascinating. As a youth, it's absolutely gripping. Later in life I learned that it was originally published in installments and due to the large demand, published as a book. I can tell you exactly why it was (and is) widely popular. The book has cool war stories. The book teaches boys how to build a shelter out of fallen branches. The book teaches boys how to track a deer from footprints and how to light a fire with no matches. It's stuff boys get into. So to recap, as a youth, it's tails of heroism and a "how to" on neat stuff you can do when you're camping. Here's the lowdown as an adult. Rereading the book as an adult, you can see the mastermind behind it. The man is teaching citizenship to young men. In between tales of cunning war maneuvers and how to start a camp fire, he's telling men to say please and thank you. Excerpt: "A present is not yours until you have thanked for it." Mixed in with cool camping techniques and fun war stories, this becomes fact to a young man. You don't even question the manners parts when your new hero, a Lieutenant General, is practically issuing you a command to say "please." The book is shockingly progressive for the era. Sir Baden-Powell, as best as I can tell, has views of white/black relations that would be more than acceptable today. His views on women are only dated today to women who have a problem with men opening a door for them (sigh?) The book is cleverly designed, which is a characteristic of the late Knight. Baden-Powell is telling young men that if they want to be like a Knight (what boy doesn't? It's like a girl wanting to be a princess.) then they need to treat women with respect. The book is rooted in timeless values and leans neither right nor left by modern standards. This book taught me to be a useful citizen (being a useful citizen is actually the main message,) to treat women with respect, and a little bit about camping. Those things might not be popular today, but if you want your son or daughter to embrace some timeless core values, give it a look. Equally as importantly, then pick it up and read it yourself. You'll be glad you did and you'll probably be a better person for it (and you probably won't be able to put it down.)

As a former reader of new editions of THE book for Scouting I was so pleased to put my hands in such a "relic" eager to analyze the perspective of the early 20th century. But from the beginning, the introduction by Elleke Boehmer was a cold bath, opening eyes to practical matters relative to the personality of B.P. or maybe the studied and straight actions and decisions taken by the founder in

a lot of ways to start and continue the scout movement; introduction that'll be a weight through all the reading. In a positive way, though, you'll be able to see through the eyes of a defender of the British Empire in a haste to change the laziness of the youth in his time and encouraging to get up and "move the feet" using all the tools learned in campaigning: scouting, hiking, camping, study and respect of Nature, development of skills in handicrafts, knots, wood constructions, bonfires, etc. You'll have a clear sample of the real start and a glance of the problems with it.

This book is a great read, and although it was written some 92 years ago the basic message is as true today as it was then, And as it said in the first edition "Handbook for Instruction in Good Citizenship" still applies, so read it and apply the ideas for a better world.

This original text of BP's "Scouting for Boys" is an excellent read. You can skip the introduction, however. The intro is a steaming pile of horse excrement written by someone seething with contempt for BP and the Boy Scout movement. Why it was included with the book is beyond me unless it's to provide bum fodder whilst camping. Remember, a scout is thrifty!

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