



Paddle Your Own Canoe: One Man's Fundamentals for Delicious Living

By Nick Offerman

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When it comes to growing a robust mustache, masticating red meat, building a chair, or wooing a woman, who better to educate you than the always charming, always manly Nick Offerman, best known as *Parks and Recreation*'s Ron Swanson? Combining his trademark comic voice and very real expertise in carpentry, *Paddle Your Own Canoe* features tales from Offerman's childhood (born, literally, in the middle of an Illinois cornfield) to his theater days in Chicago to the, frankly, magnificent seduction of his wife, Megan Mullally. Offerman also shares his hard-bitten battle strategies in the arenas of manliness, love, styles, and religion, and invaluable advice on getting the utmost pleasure out of woodworking, assorted meats, outdoor recreations, and other palatable entrees.

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Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #4068 in Books
- Brand: New American Library
- Published on: 2014-09-02
- Released on: 2014-09-02
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.21" h x .80" w x 5.45" l, 1.00 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 352 pages



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In his first book, Offerman—best known for his popular character Ron Swanson on NBC's *Parks and Recreation*—opens up about his life and the values that he says have brought him prosperity and success. Each chapter of the memoir is accompanied with an essay outlining a relevant principle Offerman claims may lead the reader to a better life. The veracity of some of his statements may be called into question—vegans will bristle at his position on meat (eating red meat gives one character) and Millennials will not appreciate his dismissive attitude towards GPS devices and smartphones—but Offerman openly admits on the first page that what works for him may not be everyone's glass of scotch. Whether or not the reader considers his advice worth following, it is thought-provoking, profane, and frequently hilarious, although the book sometimes detours into recommendations of well-known movies and plays; *Parks and Rec* fans may be disappointed at the small amount of material about the show, but getting to know Offerman through his stumbling courtship with Megan Mullally and Kabuki theater training is well worth the price of admission. (Oct.)

From [Booklist](#)

Ron Swanson is a mustachioed, breakfast-food-loving, woodworking red-meat connoisseur. Nick Offerman is a mustachioed, breakfast-food-loving, woodworking red-meat connoisseur but, more important, also a real person—a grateful, gracious, bemused actor in love with his wife, Megan Mullaly (best known as Karen in *Will & Grace*), and the earnest simplicity of his not-so-Hollywood Hollywood existence. From his humble beginnings in Minooka, Illinois, to his meteoric rise portraying Ron Swanson on the much-loved TV show, *Parks and Recreation*, Offerman has lived a lot of life. He looks back as fondly on his upbringing in a small farming community with his hardworking parents and three siblings as on the time he spent at the University of Illinois and, later, in Chicago, where he received theater training. Not only does he recall his life, but he also offers chuckle-worthy anecdotes, diagrams, even a haiku (about—what else?—bratwurst) to help his readers find their own ways toward delicious living. Ron Swanson would be proud. --Courtney Jones

Review

Praise for *Paddle Your Own Canoe*

“[Offerman] not only explores his Paul Bunyan-like image with tongue-in-cheek lessons on manliness, complete with illustrations and advice, but also offers poignant memories of his childhood growing up in Illinois and hilarious anecdotes from his career.”—*Entertainment Weekly*

“Offerman touches on everything from his days as a break-dancing, football-playing farm boy in Minooka (about 50 miles southwest of the Loop) to his freewheeling, hedonistic 20s in Chicago to the inevitable Hollywood struggles that followed. But he doesn't gloss over embarrassing moments, including his two trips to jail during college at the University of Illinois—one for shoplifting Ronnie Milsap cassettes from Kmart as a joke; the other, he says, a convoluted case of mistaken identity. Between anecdotes, he delivers impassioned pleas and rants...”—*Chicago magazine*

“Thought-provoking, profane, and frequently hilarious...getting to know Offerman through his stumbling courtship with Megan Mullally and Kabuki theater training is well worth the price of admission.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“Ron Swanson is a mustachioed, breakfast-food-loving, woodworking red-meat connoisseur. Nick Offerman is a mustachioed, breakfast-food-loving, woodworking red-meat connoisseur but, more important, also a real person—a grateful, gracious, bemused actor in love with his wife, Megan Mullally, and the earnest simplicity of his not-so-Hollywood existence. Not only does he recall his life, but he also offers chuckle-worthy anecdotes, diagrams, even a haiku (about—what else?—bratwurst) to help his readers find their own ways toward delicious living. Ron Swanson would be proud.”—*Booklist*

“Equal parts memoir and advice for grabbing life by the gonads. It’s funny, highly nostalgic, and will make you seriously contemplate taking up carpentry. It’s sort of like reading Garrison Keillor if he wrote for *Playboy*...it’s fun, it’s visceral, and I learned things. When I finished the tome I had to take a long walk to soak everything in. We should all be so lucky to one day drink with this man, or at least purchase a table from him.”—*ManCave Daily*

“Offerman’s funny advice book offers practical tips about living more successfully, with the sort of dry and laconic delivery that comes through in his role on *Parks and Recreation*.”—*Time Out New York*

“Uniquely honest and consistently hilarious...Fans of Offerman may not be surprised by his candor, however this book is not specifically written for the fans. [It] will be enjoyed by many, specifically those who have the capacity and the will to wonder, and to want more out of life, while maintaining a degree of simplicity and happiness; just like Nick Offerman.”—*Rare*

“A hilarious walkabout...teeming with tasteful vulgarity, self-deprecating hilarity and a most humble wisdom bordering on sage-like. It’s rare to find a memoir that is all at once touching, funny as sh*t, and capable of schooling you in basic modi operandi: like not being a total ass...”—*Newcity Lit*

“Offerman is a funny man...But what is special about *Paddle Your Own Canoe* is the ability it gives Offerman to reveal himself as more than just the character he plays. He believes, and has always believed, in nonconformity. He believes in humility, honesty, hard work, and loyalty — values he attributes to his parents and two favorite teachers. He believes those qualities are what truly define ‘manliness,’ but that any person, regardless of gender, should aspire to them. *Paddle Your Own Canoe* is a delight.”—*TheManual.com*

“You don’t have to be able to properly work a table saw (I can’t) or be in the market for a custom-made chair (I’m not) to buy what *Parks and Recreation* star/woodshop owner Nick Offerman is selling in his memoir...[a] modulated and admirable concept of what it means to live well and be a man. Offerman writes hilariously and honestly about boyhood chores and collegiate shenanigans, Chicago theater dues-paying and sobbing ‘for, like, 20 minutes’ when receiving the call about landing the Parks and Rec job...[he] offers a vivid look at how he charted the course for real happiness. It’s nothing if not inspiring.”—*RedEyeChicago*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jewell Garza:

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Rose Ibarra:

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Roger Alford:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity that's look different you can read any book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent all day long to reading a reserve. The book Paddle Your Own Canoe: One Man's Fundamentals for Delicious Living it is very good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book possesses high quality.

Joan Ortega:

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