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

By Nick Offerman



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**Paddle Your Own Canoe: One Man's Fundamentals for Delicious Living** By Nick Offerman

***Parks and Recreation* actor Nick Offerman shares his humorous fulminations on life, manliness, meat, and much more in his first book.**

Growing a perfect moustache, grilling red meat, wooing a woman—who better to deliver this tutelage 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 woodworking—he runs his own woodshop—*Paddle Your Own Canoe* features tales from Offerman’s childhood in small-town Minooka, Illinois—“I grew up literally in the middle of a cornfield”—to his theater days in Chicago, beginnings as a carpenter/actor and the hilarious and magnificent seduction of his now-wife Megan Mullally. It also offers hard-bitten battle strategies in the arenas of manliness, love, style, religion, woodworking, and outdoor recreation, among many other savory entrees.

A mix of amusing anecdotes, opinionated lessons and rants, sprinkled with offbeat gaiety, *Paddle Your Own Canoe* will not only tickle readers pink but may also rouse them to put down their smart phones, study a few sycamore leaves, and maybe even hand craft (and paddle) their own canoes.



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**Paddle Your Own Canoe: One Man's Fundamentals for Delicious Living** By Nick Offerman  
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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 Mullally (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:**

#### **Jeff Farley:**

The book *Paddle Your Own Canoe: One Man's Fundamentals for Delicious Living* make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You may use to make your capable far more increase. Book can being your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem with the subject. If you can make reading a book *Paddle Your Own Canoe: One Man's Fundamentals for Delicious Living* to become your habit, you can get considerably more advantages, like add your own capable, increase your knowledge about many or all subjects. You are able to know everything if you like open up and read a publication *Paddle Your Own Canoe: One Man's*

Fundamentals for Delicious Living. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science e-book or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this book?

**John Bullard:**

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book specifically book entitled Paddle Your Own Canoe: One Man's Fundamentals for Delicious Living your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe unfamiliar for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a guide then become one web form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get ahead of. The Paddle Your Own Canoe: One Man's Fundamentals for Delicious Living giving you another experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful information for your better life in this era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

**Sarah Porter:**

In this era globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make someone to understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information much easier to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, paper, book, and soon. You can see that now, a lot of publisher that print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended for your requirements is Paddle Your Own Canoe: One Man's Fundamentals for Delicious Living this book consist a lot of the information from the condition of this world now. This kind of book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The language styles that writer require to explain it is easy to understand. Often the writer made some exploration when he makes this book. That's why this book suitable all of you.

**Shawn Hoffman:**

Is it anyone who having spare time in that case spend it whole day by simply watching television programs or just resting on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This Paddle Your Own Canoe: One Man's Fundamentals for Delicious Living can be the reply, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are and so out of date, spending your extra time by reading in this new era is common not a geek activity. So what these guides have than the others?

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