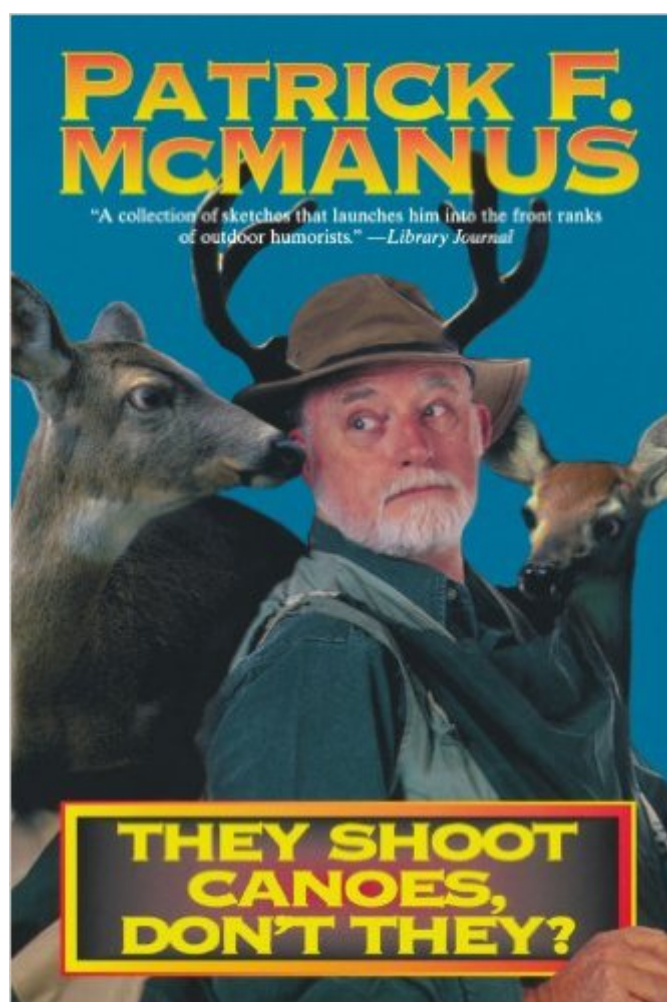


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They Shoot Canoes, Don't They?



Synopsis

McManus celebrates the hidden pleasures, unappreciated lore, and opportunities for disaster to be found in such outdoor recreations as camping, hunting, and fishing

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Holt Paperbacks (September 15, 1982)

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Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (94 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #34,830 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 inÂ Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Essays #82 inÂ Books > Sports & Outdoors > Hiking & Camping > Instructional #233 inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Essays

Customer Reviews

this book is so funny. i was reading it in english and almost fell out of my desk i was laughing so hard. my teacher took the book to see what i was reading, she laughed so hard she had to be excused to the restroom. this is a very good book (as are all of his)

Humor that reflects some of the experiences of every outdoorsman and wanna be outdoorsman(or anyone who has spent any amount of time outdoors!). All the stories are very well written and will have you laughing until you can't read anymore. Stories are short enough to enjoy during a quick break from work. Although it's hard to read for only five minutes. This book is highly recommended and I hope everyone finds the same enjoyment in the whole series as I did.

I was introduced to Patrick McManus by a good friend who doubted my ability to find Field and Stream with two hands and a flashlight. Thank heaven. Not only will these stories make you laugh till milk spews out your nostrils, they'll warn you away from avoidable risks, like sharing a bike ride with a playful deer. Atlantic Monthly never taught me that, nor did the Wall Street Journal. What I find touching about his boyhood tales is the unspoken hint that his funniest outdoor adventures started with a need to find food for his widowed mother, grandmother and sister. But he doesn't

whine about it, so enjoy.

This collection of short stories is one of the funniest I have ever read. To fully understand the humor in these stories, you must enjoy outdoor activities and appreciate first-class sarcasm. Included in this book are about twenty-five shorts, all exploding with laughter at every turn of page. These stories are about the personal experiences of the author, and the people that he is close to. He writes about hunting, fishing, camping, and other outdoor activities. His stories are so personal because he is writing about his past; as he was growing up, and his present. In addition to laughing at him, the reader also laughs at himself, because as you have said, thought, or done the very same things that he is writing about. One story in particular describes his thoughts and feelings about getting glasses. At first McManus attributes the change in the world's clarity to communists, subsequently he is diagnosed with an astigmatism. He does not think that a big game guide should wear glasses, so he does not confide his new spectacles to his friends, until he realizes that an adult mentor of his also has glasses. Normally a person getting glasses would not be considered humor, but when written by this author almost anything becomes funny. In addition to entertaining, these stories also teach the reader. A few lessons that can be learned are: take time to enjoy the simple things in life, laugh at yourself, and take time out of your normal schedule to go outdoors and spend time with family and friends. If you enjoy a good laugh pick up "They Shoot Canoes Don't They," or one of his many other novels.

There is one part in this book that is so funny that both my husband and I had to put the book down so we could take a breath, we were laughing so hard. It hurts your head to read this book, it's so funny. I've read almost all of his other humor books, but this one wins the prize. I don't even hunt or fish.

My grandson was in the Marines, aboard a ship. I sent this to him because, 1) he's a country boy, 2) he has a delightful sense of humor, and 3) I figured he would enjoy the deep laughter from each page!! (Seriously). Well, his Marine mates couldn't help but notice his laughter, and soon he was sharing the book with the other guys. He later told me, "Nanna, that book had the whole ship in fits of laughter." This was the 2nd best gift that I sent to him. What was 1st? Water guns. ;)

Reading and rereading this hilarious collection of hunting, fishing, camping, and small town adventures - well, it just makes me feel warm and fuzzy! With his cast of characters - true

"characters" everyone; McManus creates a series of delightfully hilarious vignettes! Introduced in "Skunk Dog" we get to learn about Pat's childhood pet, Strange the Dog, one of the most memorable characters with his slovenly, almost human-like, ill-mannered attributes. Other characters making their debut include the an inept, bungling cast including Al Finley, Cousin Buck, Mary Jane Railbender, Doc Portnoy, Milt Thumbscrew, Pinto Jack, and Adolf Wrinklebunn. Lovable returning characters included Gram, Mom, The Troll, Retch Sweeney, and the unhygienic, lazy, old woodsman, Rancid Crabtree. With all those characters, Pat weaves his stories and allows each character to come alive in a subtle, matter-of-fact, but uproariously humorous manner. Pat uses locale as a backdrop for his humor - settings like any pasture, mountain, lake, stream or wooded area of northern Idaho - in each case they add to the humor. This book had one of the most hilarious camping diaries I've ever read in "Journal of an Expedition" which highlighted the comedy of errors: History of the Tuttle Lake Expedition Under the Command of Patrick F. McManus. It's almost like watching an "I Love Lucy" episode! Pat McManus hits yet another homerun with They Shoot Canoes, Don't They, highly recommended for all ages!

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