

# The Dangerous Book for Boys

*By Conn Iggulden, Hal Iggulden*

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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.

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## **The Dangerous Book for Boys** By Conn Iggulden, Hal Iggulden Bibliography

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- Dimensions: 10.00" h x 1.18" w x 7.80" l, 2.25 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 270 pages



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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

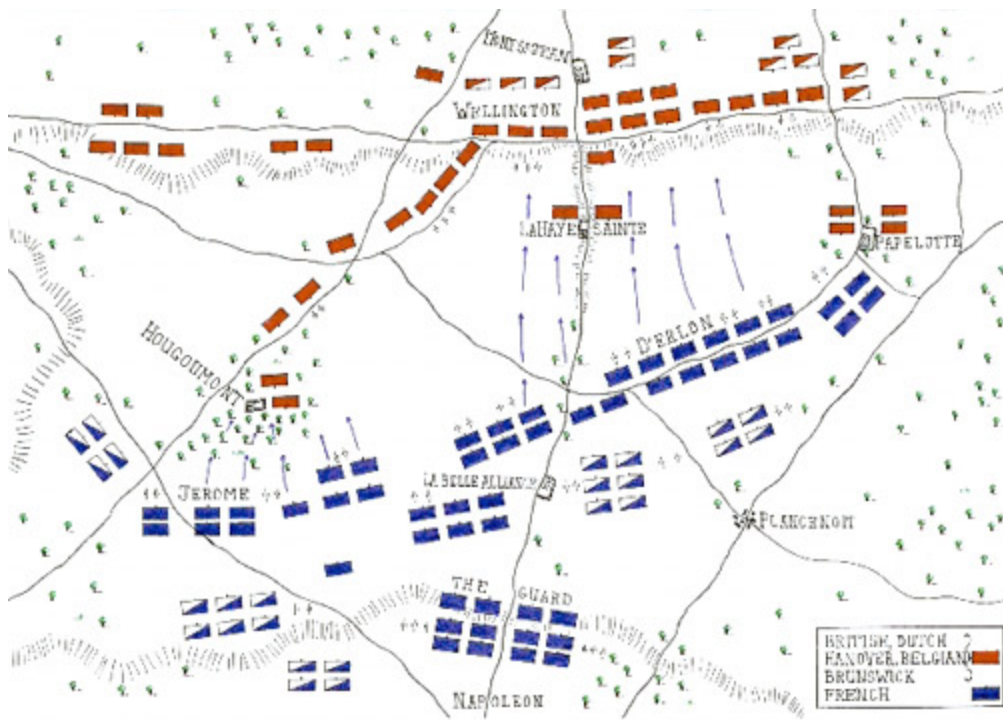
Equal parts droll and gorgeous nostalgia book and heartfelt plea for a renewed sense of adventure in the lives of boys and men, Conn and Hal Iggulden's *The Dangerous Book for Boys* became a mammoth bestseller in the United Kingdom in 2006. Adapted, in moderation, for American customs in this edition (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*



Sheet Bend Knot

Figure 8 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.

**Amazon.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, Amazon.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.

**Amazon.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.

**Amazon.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.

**Amazon.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.

**Amazon.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.

From School Library Journal

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*

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From the Back Cover

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 Aiplane in the World  
The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World  
The Five Knots Every Boy Should Know  
Stickball  
Slingshots  
Fossils  
Building a Treehouse  
Making a Bow and Arrow  
Fishing (revised with US Fish)  
Timers and Tripwires  
Baseball's "Most Valuable Players"  
Famous Battles-Including Lexington and Concord, The Alamo, and Gettysburg  
Spies-Codes and Ciphers

Making a Go-Cart  
Navajo Code Talkers' Dictionary  
Girls  
Cloud Formations  
The States of the U.S.  
Mountains of the U.S.  
Navigation  
The Declaration of Independence  
Skimming Stones  
Making a Periscope  
The Ten Commandments  
Common US Trees  
Timeline of American History

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Andrew Wilson:**

Book is actually written, printed, or descriptive for everything. You can learn everything you want by a e-book. Book has a different type. To be sure that book is important matter to bring us around the world. Next to that you can your reading skill was fluently. A guide The Dangerous Book for Boys will make you to be smarter. You can feel a lot more confidence if you can know about every thing. But some of you think this open or reading a new book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they might be thought like that? Have you trying to find best book or acceptable book with you?

#### **Susan Arnold:**

The actual book The Dangerous Book for Boys will bring you to the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to describe the idea is very unique. Should you try to find new book you just read, this book very ideal to you. The book The Dangerous Book for Boys is much recommended to you you just read. You can also get the e-book through the official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

#### **Barbara Lewis:**

Reading a book tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With reading you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. Together with book everyone in this world can share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. Lots of author can inspire their particular reader with their story or perhaps their experience. Not only the story that share in the ebooks. But also they write about advantage about something that you need example. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your sons or daughters, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors these days always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write to their book. One of them is this The Dangerous Book for Boys.

**Kim Adams:**

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book could be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the publication untitled The Dangerous Book for Boys can be fine book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

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