



## 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

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

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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:**

#### **Christopher Slowik:**

What do you concerning book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material if you want something to explain what the ones you have problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy particular person? If you don't have spare time to do others business, it is gives you the sense of being bored faster. And you have spare time? What did you do? All people has many questions above. They need to answer that question mainly because just their can do that will. It said that about guide. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on pre-school until university need this kind of *Paddle Your Own Canoe*: One

Man's Fundamentals for Delicious Living to read.

**Richard Cassidy:**

The experience that you get from Paddle Your Own Canoe: One Man's Fundamentals for Delicious Living may be the more deep you digging the information that hide inside words the more you get considering reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to recognise but Paddle Your Own Canoe: One Man's Fundamentals for Delicious Living giving you thrill feeling of reading. The article author conveys their point in selected way that can be understood by simply anyone who read the item because the author of this book is well-known enough. This book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having this particular Paddle Your Own Canoe: One Man's Fundamentals for Delicious Living instantly.

**Kevin Hamby:**

The reserve with title Paddle Your Own Canoe: One Man's Fundamentals for Delicious Living contains a lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of help after read this book. This particular book exist new understanding the information that exist in this publication represented the condition of the world currently. That is important to you to be aware of how the improvement of the world. That book will bring you with new era of the globalization. You can read the e-book with your smart phone, so you can read the idea anywhere you want.

**William Burmeister:**

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book mainly book entitled Paddle Your Own Canoe: One Man's Fundamentals for Delicious Living your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a book then become one application form conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get ahead of. The Paddle Your Own Canoe: One Man's Fundamentals for Delicious Living giving you a different experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful info for your better life within this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

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