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3-1-2010

## Review: The Pocket Daring Book for Girl's: Wisdom and Wonder

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Schwedt, Rachel and DeLong, Janice A., "Review: The Pocket Daring Book for Girl's: Wisdom and Wonder" (2010). All Children's Book Reviews. Paper 22.

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Buchanan, Andrea and Miriam Peskowitz, *The Pocket Daring Book for Girl's: Wisdom and Wonder*, Illustrations by Alexis Seabrook. Collins/HarperCollins Publishers, 2008, ISBN: 9-780-64994-3. Ages 12 and up.

## **Description:**

Combination *Farmers Almanac*, encyclopedia, and tween magazine, this perfect-sized version of the bigsister volume is a survival guide for the Renaissance lass of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Inspirational stories of famous female writers intermingle with vignettes of audacious spies. Scientific charts of the tides, crabbing and surfing meet a how-to essay on negotiating a salary. Then there is the guide to choosing tools in a hardware store followed by mini-lessons in conversational French and Spanish. This guide introduces contemporary readers to knowledge both traditional and current in precisely illustrated user-friendly articles. All good citizens should have working knowledge of at least some of this collection of "wisdom and wonder." Without question, this is a must own for the girl who wants to know how, when, and why about the world around her. Brothers will probably sneak a peek at it, as well.

## **Critique**:

This volume is difficult to evaluate because other than its older brother, *The Dangerous Book for Boys* and others in the series, it stands in a class alone. Blending nonfiction and fiction, poetry and physics, traditional know-how with survival skills of the current century, this is simply the one book a reader would want if she were marooned on an island—especially if there are high tides.