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

Rachel Schwedt

Liberty University, reschwed@liberty.edu

Janice A. DeLong

Liberty University, jadelong@liberty.edu

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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 big-sister volume is a survival guide for the Renaissance lass of the 21st 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.