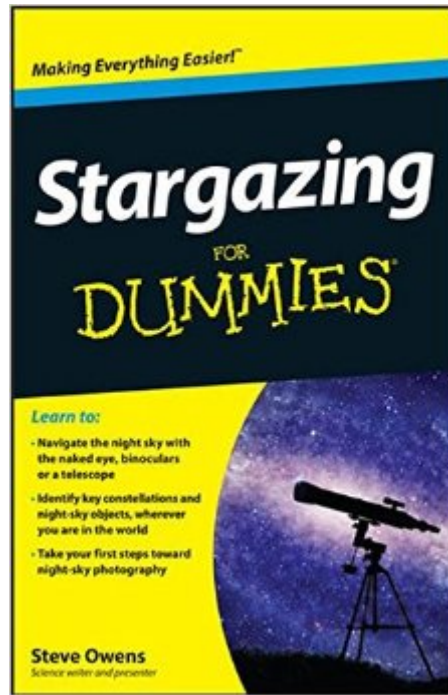


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Stargazing For Dummies



Synopsis

Reach for the stars Stargazing is the practice of observing the night sky and its contents - from constellations through to planets and galaxies. Stars and other night sky objects can be seen with the naked eye, or seen in greater numbers and in more detail with binoculars or a telescope. Stargazing For Dummies offers you the chance to explore the night sky, providing a detailed guide to the main constellations and also offering advice on viewing other night sky objects such as planets and nebulae. It's a great introduction to a fun new hobby, and even provides a fun way to get the kids outside while doing something educational! Gives you an introduction to looking at the sky with binoculars or a telescope Offers advice on photographing the night sky Without needing to get your head around mind-bending theories, you can take part in some practical physics If you're looking for easy-to-follow guidance on getting to know the night sky, Stargazing For Dummies has you covered.

Book Information

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Age Range: 2 - 5 years

Grade Level: Preschool - Kindergarten

Customer Reviews

Finally Dummies has written a book for those of us not blessed with Astronomers as relatives or friends. I was able to take this book outside and actually recognize stars in the sky. The author clearly explains a system that tells you in what direction to look and how high to look. He tells you how to identify certain easily identifiable stars and constellations then branches out from there. He

also tells about common mistakes Dummies make when buying a telescope or binoculars and what to really look for instead. Hint: It isn't the power of the telescope - it is how much light the telescope lets in. I had neither telescope or binoculars and was still able to identify stars from his instructions. The author also covers moon phases, satellites, what stars move, good websites, etc. For the first time in my life I looked at the sky in the evening and then the next morning and actually could tell that stars moved. I also found out that what I thought was the North Star was the DISH satellite and was able to locate the real North Star fairly easily.

As a life-long amateur astronomer with over 50 years of observing, I really enjoyed this book. The writing style is very even and upbeat. The author did a great job of presenting key concepts without any mathematics. There were a few minor technical errors, one in particular regarding confusion about the Moon's synodic and sidereal periods, but overall the editing was excellent. The review of the constellations was really well done. These sections in beginner guides can often be dry and boring. I thought this was the best part of the book and it was the section I thought I would be least interested in. I wish this guide was available to me when I began my study of the night sky.

Stargazing has always been one of those things I have found interesting. However, gazing up at the night sky, I could only ever make out a few constellations and not much else. I quickly found out that I didn't have the patience to learn the night sky from star charts and such. This book was the perfect solution. This book does a good job of covering many topics essential to stargazing without being a bore. It discusses the different methods of stargazing (e.g. naked-eye, telescope) and how to do each one well. There are guides for purchasing binoculars and telescopes, and then how and where to use them. It talks about some of the science behind stargazing and astronomy without going over anyone's head. It also discusses the different constellations and how to find them, how to distinguish a planet from a star, the different types of twilight, and even how to determine how good a spot is for stargazing. The author does a good job of making his point without rambling on and on. Like all "For Dummies" books, this one is meant for pick-up and put-down. There is no need to sit down and read it cover-to-cover. If you want to find out how to find Orion in the sky, just look it up - you don't need any prior knowledge. There is one minor thing - in the Kindle edition, at least - that may take away from the reader's comprehension. The author is obviously British and writes with British English. While most words may simply pop out as an apparent misspell ("colour" instead of "color;" "practise" instead of "practice"), there are some words that stop you dead in the middle of a sentence ("manoeuvre" as opposed to "maneuver"). Overall, if you are interested in learning about

the magnificent gift we are given every night - the nighttime sky - buy this book. Whether you want to be a casual naked-eye stargazer or buy a telescope and take it up as a hobby, you will find what you need to know here.

Full of useful and interesting tips, although I thought it could have gone a little deeper into some aspects, in particular I found it spends a lot of time on naked eye stargazing and not enough time on the use of telescopes. Saying that I don't think I would have had a clue where to start if I had not read this book first. If you are a complete beginner and a stargazing dummy like me, I do recommend this book.

I really enjoyed reading this book. The authors style was casual and engaging. His knowledge of the material deep enough to be able to explain it so most anybody could understand. He differentiated what could be seen with small, medium and large scopes. This is especially useful for new stargazers who might not realize that the indistinct object they have in their view is what they were looking for. Highly recommended.

Made finding the constellations easy to find and name. Located stars same night and later choose to purchase the "Celestron SkyMaster Giant 15x70 Binoculars with Tripod Adapter" and have had a much better time outdoors. This book is good for teenagers and all adults very easy to understand and gain a good knowledge of the heavens.

I found this book to be very helpful and I am learning a lot from this book. I am an amateur stargazer and have always been interested in the stars. I bought myself a telescope so I can enjoy the stars even more!

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