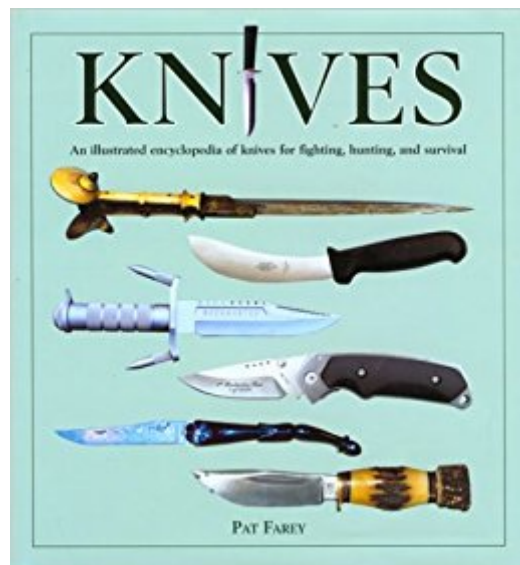


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Knives: An Illustrated Encyclopedia Of Knives For Fighting, Hunting, And Survival



Synopsis

Knives can be both luxuries and necessities. For the outdoorsman, as well as for the soldier, a knife can be used to gather and prepare food, build and tend a fire, create a shelter, and signal for rescue. When the chips are down, they will also do duty as lethal close combat weapons. For the more domestic user, knives can simplify and make convenient a wide variety of tasks. KNIVES is a complete reference to the history and culture of these fascinating tools.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Credit the author and illustrator for producing a terrific book that covers the basics and delves deeply into the history..."-- Los Angeles Times

For the outdoorsman or soldier, a knife is not a luxury; it could become an absolutely vital tool, or weapon, in a struggle for survival. A knife can be used to gather and prepare food, build and tend a fire, create a shelter against the elements, and signal for rescue. Also, when necessary, it will do duty as a lethal close combat weapon. Knives have long held a fascination for the enthusiasts of the "great outdoors" -- the hunters and anglers, campers, orienteers and trekkers, rock climbers and mountaineers -- while the modern soldier, albeit that he may well be equipped with the most sophisticated of firearms, will have a knife of sorts in his armory. This fabulously illustrated book shows the extraordinarily wide range of knives that have been designed for specific tasks, or for a multitude of duties. They range from multi-purpose tools (with a variety of blades and other tools

folded away, such as the famous Swiss Army knife), through folding knives and switch blades, utility and special purpose knives (including jungle machetes), general combat and survival knives (including the famous KA-BAR), to lethal daggers and other fighting knives. The author Pat Farey provides a great deal of technical detail in his florid descriptions of the knives, as well as candidly analyzing each for fitness-for-purpose. Supporting this highly readable text are specially commissioned close-up photographs of the weapons or tools. The result is a handsome and useful reference work on an extremely wide-ranging subject.

Pat Farey's "Knives" is more of an introduction to knives, than a detailed encyclopedia covering specific knives or specific knife types. While a decent introduction, the book does not go into depth and is greatly biased towards knives in current production. It does however cover the essentials, and the pictures are clear and instructive.

Being one of the man's oldest tools, the knife has a lot of material to work with, trying to sum it up in a single volume of only 144 pages it's really an enormous challenge that the author tries to tame with some success, but to call the book an encyclopedia is misleading, it can be called a good reference, but since it contains too many personal opinions and absolute truths, that can't be upheld even now, that the scientific sense that the word encyclopedia infers is lost; the substantial references to commercial knives and products available only in some places and in a given time (even though no longer available at the date of the publishing) makes this a short lived and forgettable book.

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